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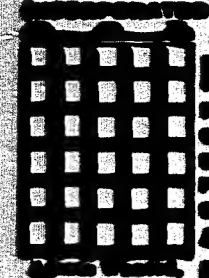

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THE STANDARD

VOL. XII. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1892. No. 3.

EDITORIAL NOTES.—Protection papers exemplify their bigotry in nothing more strikingly than in their efforts to condemn free trade because the Southern Confederacy adopted it, as if that fact could possibly have any bearing upon the merits of the question. This is pure demagogy. It is a dishonest attempt to prejudice the voter against a candid consideration of the issues of to-day by exciting his hatreds of a quarter of a century ago. It is not altogether safe, however, for the protectionists to argue to workingmen that because southern slave owners favored it free trade must be bad for labor. The southern slave owners had their own interests in view when they demanded free trade, and those interests were precisely what the interests of the working people are to-day. Slave holders owned labor. As they lived upon the wages of their slaves, it was to their interest to have wages as high as possible. The higher wages were, the more "niggers" were worth, for the value of a "nigger" was based on the wages he could earn. To-day, the workingmen own labor and live upon wages, just as the slave owners did. The difference between them is that they own their own labor. But that is not material so far as the question of free trade is concerned. If free trade would raise the wages of slaves, it will raise the wages of free men.

The Indianapolis Journal has been brought to with a round turn by the Sentinel. The tariff editor of the Journal, while working over old protection "gags," localized the perennial and ubiquitous "prominent manufacturer," otherwise nameless, who is willing to do without protection if you give him workmen at European wages. Promptly the Sentinel, which is edited not by an old fogy Democratic protectionist but by a live Democrat of the new school, offered to make any reasonable wager that upon the disclosure of the name of the "prominent manufacturer" it can be shown that the labor cost of his products to him is no greater than the labor cost to his competitors in Europe. The Journal will not accept the wager. Its financial managers know, if its tariff editor does not, that the Sentinel would surely win.

That hard shell Hill-Democrat, Frederic P. Olcott, assuming him to be reasonably endowed with common sense, will not thank the newspaper man whose report makes him support protection on the ground that the English, for aiding the Confederacy, should be charged a heavy duty to help pay some of the widows they indirectly deprived of their husbands. Mr. Olcott is supposed to mean that in the payment of pensions, if we raise the funds by protective tariffs, Englishmen will be compelled to foot the bill. This is another form of that toothless saw, "the foreigner pays the tax." The wonder is that men like Olcott do not propose a pension for everybody. So long as the English can be made to pay it, why not?

A correspondent of the Wagga Hummer, a leading labor union paper of Australia, insists that, if the "unearned increment" of land belongs to the people, all other "unearned increments" do also; and, inasmuch as "the community creates the value of socks, boots, etc, as well as the value of land," that the community has the right to the one as well as to the other. This way of putting it would doubtless delight the heart of our good friend Professor Seligman, of Columbia College; but the Hummer, with well feigned caution, asks its correspondent to tell it what is the "unearned increment" of a pair of socks six months in use! Thus are the best woven theories of culture torn into shreds by the gibes and sneers of the lower classes.

When the Yankee who, upon seeing a dog with his tail in his mouth, said, "Extremes meet," was quoted to Gen. Butler in connection with an historic incident in a national convention, the General remarked that in that case both extremes belonged to the same dog. It is not so with the church and temperance people who are acting in concert with Chicago liquor dealers to secure the closing of the World's Fair on Sundays and the exclusion of alcoholic liquor at all times. These two forces do not belong to the same dog; but the effect, should they be successful, would be the same. It does not take a prophet to foretell that Sunday closing and the exclusion of liquor would serve the object, not of the church and temperance people, but of Chicago saloon keepers.

Miss Ella L. Knowles, the only woman lawyer of Montana, has been nominated by the People's party of that State for the office of Attorney-General. Miss Knowles is a native of New Hampshire. She graduated from Bates College, Me., in 1884, and began the study of law at Manchester, N. H., in 1885. Forced by ill health into the mountains of Montana, for a year she taught in the Central School of Helena, and then resumed her legal studies. She was for a time kept from the bar by professional prejudice, but she personally secured the passage by the Territorial legislature of a law which provides for the admission of women, and in December, 1890, she became a full-fledged lawyer. She purposes making a personal canvass of the State.

The silver coinage question has been removed from the politics of the coming presidential campaign, except to the extent that the People's party can make it an issue. By a vote of 154 to 136 the Democratic House has refused to consider out of its order the bill for free coinage adopted by the Republican Senate. There was no partisan significance in the vote in either house. Democrats and Republicans in both voted for free silver, and Democrats and Republicans in both voted against it.

In a report on increase of land values in Baltimore, the Boston Journal discovers cause for congratulating the inhabitants of that city as "sharers in the general prosperity that has existed during the present Republican administration." Apparently, the Journal supposes that the value of land is actual wealth. So it is, potentially, to the owners of the land; but, when it is remembered that every dollar which land owners receive is a dollar taken without consideration from some one else, it becomes clear that land value is not wealth to those who yield it up. It is wealth as slave values were wealth. What the slave owners got, the slaves lost; what the land owners get, the landless lose. Land value is not merely a kind of wealth in which all do not share; like lottery prizes, it is a kind which is supplied principally by people who get no share at all. The Boston Journal should confine its congratulations to those inhabitants of Baltimore who are enriched by the increase of Baltimore land values. It must be irritating to the others; plundered men do not like to be congratulated.

It is a great pity that opposition to increasing the American navy can find in the House of Representatives no better opponent than the parsimonious Holman, who seems never to have an idea that is not associated with and measured by money. The eloquence of a man like Fellows is sure to tell and ought to tell, precisely as it did last week on the proposition to build a cruiser and a coast line battle ship, if no better objections can be made than the penny wise and pound foolish ones of Holman. Had some strong member, with peace in his heart and fight in his eye, taken the floor, and, discarding all questions of more or less expense, opposed the proposition on the merits of the question of navy or no navy, Colonel Fellows's martial eloquence would have blushed for shame.

The discovery that factory children in New England and shop girls in New York work for so small a sum as $1.25 a week, throws a strong side light upon the prosperity of American working people. If parents could support their children in comfort, children would not be found working for such pitiful compensation. No man makes a drudge of his child for $1.25 a week unless $1.25 a week is an important addition to the family income.

The Boston Journal has discovered that American reaping and binding machines, equal to the English, are sold abroad for lower prices than English makers demand. Free traders have long insisted upon this, but protectionists have denied it; now that the Journal comes to the support of the free traders as to the fact, perhaps it will enlighten its readers as to the reason. The reason, as it doubtless knows, is that we can make such machines cheaper than they can be made in England. Is this on account of the tariff? No, this is not on account of the tariff. It is in spite of tariff. The tariff simply enables the makers of these machines to charge American farmers more for them than they can charge foreign farmers.

A great deal is said now-a-days about the excess of American exports over imports. This is called "a favorable balance of trade." But it indicates anything but a favorable balance. If it were continuous and perpetual, it would bankrupt the country as it has bankrupted Ireland. It would mean that we are sending more wealth out of the country than we receive back. The idea of those who clap their hands over these "favorable balances" is that the excess of imports is paid for in gold. That is not true. If it were true, the time would soon come when all the gold of the world would be here, and the balance be turned the other way or trade stopped. Balances may fluctuate under healthy trade exports being in excess in some years and imports in,

others; but when the balance is continually "favorable" it means that our travelers are spending their substance abroad, that our immigrants are remitting presents to their foreign kinsmen, that our people are paying the interest and principal of old debts, or that our tenantry are paying rent to foreign landlords. Or it may mean that all these things are going on. Such a condition points not to healthy trade, but at ultimate impoverishment.

That versatile figure juggler and prince of economic acrobats, Edward Atkinson, now supposes that the low wages in Europe may be a consequence of the waste of food upon armies and navies rather than a result of lack of opportunity to do effective work. Is it possible that even Edward Atkinson can imagine that the stoppage of this waste would increase the wages of laborers while opportunity for doing effective work was lacking?

We are asked to briefly formulate three propositions regarding the theories of Henry George. First, what are the relations of labor to land? Labor is the active, land the passive factor of production; and, industrially speaking, each is complementary to the other. Second, how do wages result from the application of labor to land? The whole product of labor applied to land is, before rent arises, the wages of that labor. Third, how does rent obstruct labor in applying itself to land? Normal rent does not obstruct. As the demand for land brings less desirable land than the best into use, rent arises; and as the demand continues and l nd still less desirable is brought into use, rent increases. This is normal rent, and it leaves to the labor on the least desirable land the full product, while taking from labor applied to the better lands the difference between their product and the product of the poorest land. It equalizes the wages of given labor on the basis of the returns from the lowest grade of land in use. Thus far rent works an equitable result. But when rent is private property, land is held out of use for speculative purposes, which forces labor to less desirable land than would otherwise be open to it. And since wages are determined by the least desirable land in use, they are necessarily forced below the normal rate by this appropriation of unused land.

The Rural New Yorker tells of a lot of land in Chicago, worth only 60 cents an acre fifty years ago, which has just been sold at the rate of $10,890,000 an acre, and asks what the tax would be on that lot under the single tax. If our contemporary will ascertain the rate of taxation on the value of all Chicago land which would be necessary to pay all Chicago taxes, we will answer its question. In a country of common schools we ought not to be called upon to do sums in simple arithmetic for other people, but we are willing to to make an exception in this case.

Residents of Chicago begin to understand that the glory of a World's Fair comes dear. It is only the owners of Chicago land that find any substantial reasons for joy in the great Exposition. When leading citizens were striving "tooth and toe-nail" to secure the fair for the windy city, we heard a great deal about the benefits that would acrue to workingmen, but labor flowed into Chicago in such quantities that it is now about the cheapest commodity there. Business was to have been boomed; to an extent it has been, but all the profits of the boom are scraped off by the owners of Chicago. Lodging rents have been raised, the rents of dwellings have been raised, the rents of business places have been raised. One prominent citizen has said that "the mere expectation of the fair added $50,000,000 to the wealth of Chicago." Of course, he did not mean that it brought goods to the value of $50,000,000 into Chicago. What he meant was that it made such a demand for Chicago land that the landowners were able to charge the landless $50,000,000 more than before for living at home; that the power of enjoying that much wealth was transferred from producers to land owners. We trust that Chicago single tax men will not miss the opportunity that the fair will afford of showing, by means of a grand object lesson, how the pecuniary profits of every public benefit are turned into the pockets of the owners of land. It will be useful when some other city asks for subsidies.

THE SINGLE TAX FIGHT IN HYATTSVILLE.—It is a mistake to suppose that such a reform as the single tax can win easily. If that could be it would have won long ago. There is hard fighting before us, first to get the reform and then to keep it. Men who have made money at the expense of their fellows and expect to make more, will join with those who, though yet poor, are in a position to make money in this way; and, reinforced with recruits from among crumb hunters and those who always side with the rich whose wealth is obtained in conventially respectable ways, they will leave nothing undone that audacity, shrewdness, or even lawlessness can do to frustrate the reform.

The people of Hyattsville, Md., have now a foretaste of what all will experience when once the single tax becomes the immediate possibility throughout the country that it is in Hyattsville. Our readers were delighted, two weeks ago, with the story of Henry George, Jr., which told how a few active and sensible men had secured the exemption from taxation in that town, first of personal property and then of improvements. This week, in "Progress of the Movement," we report the reaction. That story, also told by Henry George, Jr., shows how the saviors of society in this Maryland village, forseeing the radical character of the reform, and shrewder than the thoughtless villagers who echo their slanderous epithets, packed a public meeting which they had called to oppose the new basis of taxation—that of land values alone—and to demand a change backto the old system. The meeting, apparently because no one who favored the reform was allowed to participate in its deliberations either by speech or vote, adopted resolutions denouncing the change; but when these resolutions were presented to the town officials they were promptly referred to a public meeting of all the inhabitants of the town, to be held on the 21st of July, when the officials will define their position.

The result of the meeting cannot be predicted; it is certain, however, that it will make discussion, and that is, at this time, of greatest importance. To this discussion single tax men all over the Union can contribute by mail or telegraph. A single brief argument, a single epigram, may make a convert who will in turn convert his thousands. Let Mr. Ralston be overwhelmed with telegrams; even if too late for the meeting of this week, they can be used.

CLEVELAND'S ACCEPTANCE.—At an immense mass meeting to be held to-night in the largest hall in New York City, the presidential nominations will be formally tendered to Cleveland and Stevenson. It is expected that on this great occasion, the first of its kind in the history of presidential elections, Mr. Cleveland will express his views on the issues of the campaign. Some fears have been excited as to the boldness with which he may greet the free trade plank of his platform, and some of the papers that support him have been exceedingly busy with efforts to explain that plank away. We have confidence, however, in Mr. Cleveland's integrity and courage. We have no fear that he will falter. We believe that he will make the fight.

Mr. Cleveland's past should alone be a sufficient guarantee for this. But in a recent private letter he confirms the good opinions of those who have trusted him. Ralph E. Hoyt, who is known by single tax men everywhere as one of the strongest though most recent accessions to their ranks from the Republican party, wrote to Mr. Cleveland, expressing the hope that he would see his way clear to endorsing without qualification the anti-protection plank in the platform; and, although no answer was solicited, Mr. Cleveland replied as follows:

GRAY GABLES, BUZZARD'S BAY, July 14.

Ralph E. Hoyt, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of July 2 is at hand, and I am exceedingly gratified to learn of your intention to support the principles and candidates of the Chicago Convention. I think no sincere advocate of honest tariff can be dissatisfied with the position the Democratic party has assumed on that subject, and *I am sure none need fear that the contest will not be made on the lines laid down*, which have already proved to be so acceptable to a great majority of the people. Very truly yours, GROVER CLEVELAND.

THE SITUATION AT HOMESTEAD.—The militia is in possession at Homestead, a Congressional committee has made an investigation, the Carnegie company is hunting for non-union men to take the place of its old employees whom it refuses to receive back except as individuals and upon terms imposed by itself, and the old employees are holding out for a trial of endurance. If this condition continues, it is almost needless to say that the Carnegies will triumph. So many men are suffering for want of opportunity to work that a law-and-order contest, such as that at Homestead has become, cannot terminate otherwise than favorably for the side that controls the sinews of law and order.

The vigor with which throughout this conflict plutocratic papers of both political parties have demanded that the law be enforced against the locked-out workmen cannot but excite universal admiration. The workmen may have grievances, but their grievances are secondary considerations not even to be mentioned while they defy the law. This has been the tone of these papers. To be sure, the men are not defying the law; but they would be if the militia were withdrawn, and that amounts to the same thing. This mode of treating the situation would be worthy of more respect, however, if it were applied to disorderly acts generally, and not reserved for outbreaks of exasperated workingmen against monopolists. Strict obedience to the law and patient reliance upon it to redress wrongs is a most excellent rule of conduct. But it is seldom recommended with emphasis in cases like the hanging of the negro at Port Jervis, or the killing of the Italians in the jail at New Orleans. It is usually reserved for workingmen's strikes. It is not strange if, in these circumstances, some people are uncharitable enough to suppose that the sermons on law and order which the press has read to the workmen at Homestead, were prompted by class feeling rather than by any genuine respect for the law or any real desire for its impartial administration.

But, despite their motives, what these papers say is true. Order

must be preserved. Men must be protected in the control of their own property. Freedom of employment must be maintained. It is not for what they say, but for what they leave unsaid, that the papers deserve the condemnation of thoughtful people. When they demand that freedom of employment be maintained, they allude only to the efforts of union men to drive non-union men away. It is to that alone that they call the attention of their readers. But most of them know that back of that really ineffective mode of restricting employment is one which operates in favor of employers with such effectiveness that in its absence there would be no unemployed men for trade unions to interfere with.

When taxes are put upon landed improvements and personal property, things that workingmen make, and demand is diminished by the consequent increase of price, freedom of employment is restricted, and in some degree men are deprived of opportunities to work; when protection duties are laid upon foreign products, so as to increase the price of similar domestic products, freedom of employment is restricted further, and men both here and abroad are deprived of opportunities to work; when the holding of land out of use is made possible and promoted by favoring the owners with low taxes, freedom of employment is in a very high degree restricted, and men in vast numbers are deprived of opportunities to work. It is in these ways that the army of the unemployed is created, and it is by drawing upon that army that the Carnegies are able to cut down the wages of their men and to shoot down the men themselves when they undertake to meet subtle economic force with physical force. These restrictions upon freedom of employment lie back of the acts of trades unions in interfering with "scabs," and make occasion for the restrictions of trade unionism. It is in them, too, that an injustice lurks of which workingmen feel the sting, but cannot fix the wrong. They trace the wrong to Carnegie, but are nonplussed when they realize that Carnegie has the right to do all he has done of which they complain. As reasonable men, when they consider the situation, they are forced to admit that in every detail they are somehow in the wrong; yet, on the whole, they know that they are in the right.

They are in the right. Not in their lawless acts, but in their vague idea that they are entitled to an opportunity to make a living. This opportunity has been taken from them by law, and they have the right to get it back. But they cannot get it back through petty strikes, nor is it necessary in this country to resort to physical force. The law-making power is in their hands; they have only to use it. Heretofore they have been duped into using it against themselves. That they now begin to realize; but they do not yet understand how they were duped, nor how to avoid being duped again. There is a simple test. They have been misled by appeals to their selfishness. Let them hereafter take to heart the inner meaning of the Knights of Labor motto, "An injury to one is the concern of all," and closing their ears to selfish appeals, range themselves by the side of those who ask for justice.

PROTECTIONISTS THE FRIENDS OF THE FOREIGNER.

BY STOUGHTON COOLEY.

Those more or less learned gentlemen who profess to believe in the philosophy of a man's lifting himself over the fence by pulling upon his boot straps, never tire of posing as the friends of the American—and especially of the American workingman—and are unceasing in their efforts to convince their tender charge that free traders are traitors seeking to deliver them into the hands of the enemy. This is the "last ditch," and when all other arguments fail, these conservators of the workingman wave the American flag and call upon all patriotic citizens to rally to its support.

But the worm will turn; free traders have from time to time questioned the protectionists' claim to the exclusive proprietorship of all that is good and holy, and even Governor Campbell, of Ohio, had the temerity to carry the war into Africa by charging Major McKinley and his party with favoring the foreigner at the expense of the native. In doing so he sought to prove from dealers' price lists and other sources that these benevolent gentlemen who carry on extensive manufacturing enterprises for the purpose of employing American workingmen have been accustomed to selling their goods to foreigners at a lower price than to the workingmen of their own country. This charge was, of course, denied by the Major, with a proper amount of indignation, and voluminous evidence introduced to show that it was false, that either the prices were not less or that the goods were of inferior quality. That was a golden opportunity to expose the hypocrisy of these self-styled friends of the laboring man, but Governor Campbell was not then equal to the occasion; he contented himself with quoting figures against figures and hearsay against hearsay, which was only such evidence as would satisfy those already satisfied.

Had Governor Campbell read to his audience from the present tariff law—the veritable McKinley bill itself—he would have had evidence which the doughty Major could not so easily have explained away. Section 10 of this law, to prevent Americans from doing what they wish to, provides: "That all medicines, preparations, compositions, perfumery, cosmetics, cordials, and other liquors manufactured wholly or in part of domestic spirits, intended for exportation, as provided by law, in order to be manufactured and so sold or removed, without being charged with duty and without having a stamp affixed thereto, shall, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, be made * * * in bonded warehouses." Then follows minute directions for the guidance of the officers to prevent abuse of this provision—which abuse would consist in the manufacturers selling these goods to a native as cheaply as to a foreigner. "Any materials imported into the United States may * * * be removed in original packages from on shipboard * * * into the bonded warehouse in which such manufacture may be carried on, for the purpose of being used in such manufacture, without payments of duties thereon. * * * No article so removed, nor any article manufactured in said bonded warehouse, shall be taken therefrom except for exportation, under the direction of the proper officer having charge thereof." * * *

This is the provision of the protectionists' own law, and if these goods are not sold to the foreigner cheaper than to the native the law fails of its expressed purpose. It provides that invalids in need of medicines, ladies who use cosmetics and perfumes, and the dyspeptic who takes a little cordial for his stomach's sake, must, if they be Americans, pay the excise duties on domestic spirits and import duties on the imported ingredients of which these articles are made, but if they be English, French, Italians or Hottentots, the excise and import duties are remitted.

Section 24 provides that "Metals in any crude form requiring smelting or refining to make them readily available in the arts, imported into the United States to be smelted or refined, and intended to be exported in a refined but unmanufactured state, shall * * * be removed in original packages or in bulk from the vessel or other vehicle on which it has been imported * * * without payment of duties thereon." * * * Section 25 provides, "That where imported materials, on which duties have been paid, are used in the manufacture of articles manufactured or produced in the United States, there shall be allowed on the exportation of such articles a drawback equal in amount to the duties paid on the materials used, less 1 per centum of such duties."

These two provisions, like the first, are put in the law solely for the purpose of enabling the protected manufacturer in this country to sell his goods to the foreigner at a less price than to his fellow-citizens. Thus the duty on imported salt used in curing fish must be paid if the fish be eaten by Americans, but is remitted if they be consumed by foreigners. Perhaps after all it should not be surprising that that patient ass, the farmer, should spend his days in producing with heavily taxed American made tools, wheat for a foreign market where he meets the competition of those who use untaxed American made tools. How can he be expected to have healthy brains—or any at all—when the far-seeing protectionists have, by this cunning device, taxed the cod fish out of his reach?

If canned meat prepared here be eaten by a native, the duty on the tin of which the can is made, and the salt in the meat must be paid, but if consumed by a foreigner these items of expense in production are remitted. It is reported that the Standard Oil Company has received from the Government more than a million dollars in drawbacks on tin used in its foreign trade. If this does not enable it to sell to foreigners cheaper than to our own people, then there is no law of trade.

What is the use of quarreling over price-lists and hearsay evidence? The law upon which protection stands is framed for the very purpose of enabling our manufacturers to compete in foreign countries with those whose competition they say they cannot meet here. What rot!

Free traders are accused of sacrificing the welfare of our people for that of the foreigner when they demand that all men shall trade where and how they please; but the protectionists have discriminated against those whom they profess to love in favor of those they profess to hate. It is high time the workingmen were saved from their friends.

Stoughton Cooley was born in Savanna, Ill., in 1861. On his father's side his ancestors came from England at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and settled near Springfield, Mass. His mother's family is of early "Pennsylvania Dutch" settlers, who came to this country some time prior to the Revolution, and some of them fought in that war. His father, an Ohio and Mississippi steamboatman, usually had his family with him as he traveled up and down the river, and the first fifteen years of Mr. Stoughton's life was spent "aboard" boat. In 1875 he was laid up with inflammation of the knee joint, and was mostly confined to the house from that time until 1882. So that during his earlier years he was not within reach of schools, and in the latter years was unable to attend them. He was always fond of "solid" reading, however, and was early impressed with the fact that all the great reforms of the world had been accomplished and that he must plod along in the hum-drum like a bear horse at the plow. He was for free trade and direct taxation when in 1885 he read "Progress and Poverty." Since then he has seen that whereas the fight for liberty had before appeared to be won, only a few outposts had been taken and the enemy still lay within the citadel. The great feats accomplished by reforms of the past were nothing compared to what must be done before the sons of men would be free. So, though born in 1861, he feels that he did not begin to live until 1885, and that the memoirs for his biography are yet to be made.

THE HUMBUG OF PROTECTION.

Sydney (N. S. W.) Daily Telegraph.

The latest files of American papers make it perfectly clear that the humbug of protection is almost played out in the great Western Republic, and that even the immense vested interests concerned will not be able for much longer to force it upon the people. As the time of the presidential election approaches the tariff issue comes more and more to the front. There is no longer a doubt that it will be the main question on which the election will be fought, and that the fight will be the most tremendous political struggle that has yet taken place in the United States.

SINGLE TAX NEWS.

The Single Tax is a tax on land, regardless of its improvements and in proportion to its value. It implies the abolition of all other forms of taxation, and the collection of the public revenues from this source alone. It would be CERTAIN, because land values are most easily appraised; WISE, because, by discouraging the withdrawal of land from use and encouraging its improvement, it would expand opportunities for labor, augment wealth, and increase the rewards of industry and thrift; JUST, because every one would pay taxes in proportion to the value of the land, of right the common property of all, which he appropriated to his own use; and FIRST, because it would fall not upon labor, enterprise, and thrift, but upon the value of a special privilege. It is more fully explained in the Single Tax Platform in another column; and in "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, every point is discussed and every objection answered.

The underlying principle of the single tax—that the earth belongs equally to all, and that the best way to secure substantial justice is to tax the occupant an amount equal to the yearly value of the land—is sound.—Journal of the Knights of Labor, September 24, 1891.

We have no hesitation in declaring our belief that the ideal taxation lies in the Single Land Tax, laid exclusively on the rental value of land, independent of improvements.—New York Times, January 10, 1891.

The best and surest subject of taxation is the thing that perforce stays in one place, that is land.—New York Sun, August 26, 1891.

Every one of these taxes [on commodities and buildings] the ostensible taxpayer—the man on the assessor's books—shifts to other shoulders. The only tax he cannot shift is the tax on his land values.—Detroit News, November 1, 1891.

The Bee does not say that it will never be a full-fledged single tax advocate. It believes in it in theory now; it pauses only on the threshold of doubt as to the expediency under existing circumstances.—Sacramento (Cal.) Bee.

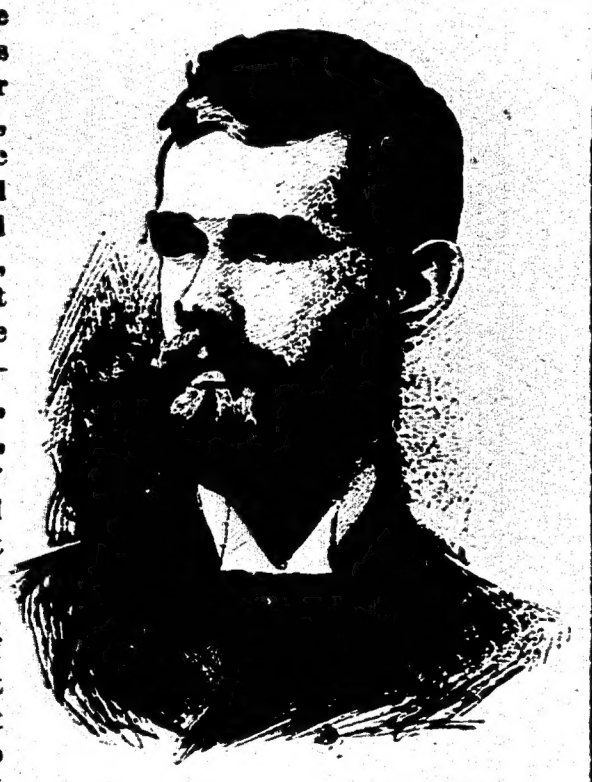
The products of individual industry should remain at all times untaxed. Take the annual rental value of land without regard for improvements, no matter what it amounts to. The community could put this fund to better uses than the individual landlords.—St. Louis Chronicle.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

"When any one now-a-days asks me a question about the single tax I tell him to come to Hyattsville, Md. There he will not only see it applied, but will find every man, woman and child talking about it."

FIGHTING THE SINGLE TAX IN HYATTSVILLE.

So said Jackson H. Ralston, speaking of the great commotion that had been excited by the action of the town commissioners in placing improvements with personalty on the exemption list, and passing an ordinance to raise all the town revenue from land values alone. But Hyattsville is not to pass quietly into history as the first single tax town. Never has such a storm been raised there. The morning following the action of the board, writes Henry George, Jr., the rich men, headed by Dr. Charles A. Wells, the Democratic leader or boss, and Mr. Louis D. Wine, the Republican manager, rose up in a body to save society, and in the harshest tones denounced Commissioners Ralston, Britt, and Long, and demanded that they either repeal the ordinance or resign. Dr. Wells is a practicing physician in the town, keeps the only drug store there, has been a resident for many years, has made money by land speculation, and is at present owner of a large amount of land within the corporate limits. Mr. Wine is a member of the firm of B. H. Warner & Co., the largest land speculating firm in or about Washington. He is reputed to have made more money out of Hyattsville land than any man there. The men who associated with them in this movement to "save society" were such as had in like manner made money, such as were dependent upon them, such as could be fooled or frightened by them. Those who could be fooled were told that the three commissioners were exceeding their authority and with the purpose of increasing every man's tax burden; while to others the commissioners were denounced as exercising arbitrary powers in not taxing all property alike.



JACKSON H. RALSTON.

Ralston and his two colleagues had anticipated opposition, and for that reason had affected the adoption of the single tax as quietly as possible. But they were astonished at the torrent of wrath and abuse that was poured upon them on the morning following this action. They were amazed to hear the calumnies that began to circulate, and to read the bitter attacks that appeared in the columns of the two Washington dailies—the only newspapers circulating in the town. But they did not flinch nor give an inch of ground. They believed they had a majority of the people of Hyattsville back of them and, what was better, they believed they were legally and morally right, and each quietly announced when questioned that he had no notion of withdrawing from his position. "Indeed," said Ralston, "it is practically impossible for us to back down. Each of us has friends who would hold him fast even if he were disposed to weaken. To back down would mean to be ostracised. We would practically be run out of the town.

On the other hand, the anti-Ralston people saw clearly the necessity of having the obnoxious ordinance rescinded. "We must stop this thing at once," one of them exclaimed. "If it gains a foot-hold we never shall be able to get rid of it." And the speaker pointed to Ralston's former performance in getting the town assessment on land run up so that the county and town assessments on a given tract stood, for the county $40 and for the town $85! And who would do such things only needed the occasion to do worse, and not only should a veto be placed upon his most recent exploit, but his career should be brought to an end.

A GAGGED PUBLIC MEETING.

It was quickly resolved that a meeting should be held, ostensibly of all the citizens of Hyattsville, but really of only such citizens as opposed the Ralston measure. A call for the meeting was circulated, and many signed who supposed its purpose was to discuss the measure and the action of the commissioners. The meeting was crowded, and in the audience sat the culprit-in-chief, Ralston. Addison M. Smith, a man of good address and smooth, even manners, a deacon of the Presbyterian Church, and a large real estate agent, was called to the chair, and with admirable skill carried out a cut and dried programme. Dr. Wells and others made denunciatory speeches that were both acrimonious and personal. Ralston and others arose in the audience and asked permission to reply, but their request was refused and the meeting was railroaded along until resolutions were presented. The resolutions were in two parts. The first part read:

GEORGE S. BRITT.

WHEREAS, At a recent meeting of the commissioners of the town of Hyattsville a resolution was adopted providing that the assessment for the current year be levied only upon the land lying within the corporate limits of the town, and that all improvements be exempt from taxation; and

WHEREAS, By the adoption of said resolution the commissioners have manifested an intention to exempt from all taxation a large class of wealth to the manifest injustice of certain classes of our citizens and the great detriment of the town, greatly reducing its revenues from the amount expected to have been realized by virtue of the amendment of the charter allowing an increased assessment of twenty-five cent on the $100 in lieu of fifteen cents as formerly; and

WHEREAS, Said action was taken by the said Board without consulting the wishes of the residents or taxpayers of the town, in known opposition to the views of the majority of our citizens and contrary to every well established principle of a republican form of government; and

WHEREAS, The system intended to be thrust upon us is contrary to the Constitution of our state, which declares that every man shall be taxed according to his actual worth. and is false in theory and would be onerous in practice; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in view of the above statement, believing that a very grave error has been committed, involving the material welfare and good name of our community, we respectfully request the commissioners to so modify the resolution or order referred to as to restore the basis of taxation as heretofore to the land and improvements thereon, and that a committee of five be appointed to present said request to the commissioners of Hyattsville.

Anticipating that this resolution would not be noticed by the three refractory commissioners, this further resolution was introduced:

In case a negative answer be made to the above request, the said committee is directed to present the following to the commissioners as the further action of this meeting:

Resolved, That the commissioners of the town of Hyattsville having in our belief exceeded the powers conferred upon them by law in the exemption from taxes of the improvements on real estate and proceeded in violation of the trust conferred on them by the citizens of Hyattsville in their election. We respectfully request the resignation of such of said commissioners as voted for said exemption, and we pledge ourselves collectively and individually to resist by every lawful means within our power the enforcement of the tax levied by them on one portion only of the taxable property of the town as unlawful, unequal, unjust and in every respect detrimental to the good name and best interests of this corporation.

RAILROADING THE RESOLUTIONS.

These resolutions were shot through regardless of opposition, a large number of citizens were induced to sign them, and a committee of five was appointed to present them to the Board of Commissioners, these five men being Dr. Wells, Mr. Wine, Mr. Henry Drury, Rev. William T. Russel, the Catholic priest of the parish, and Mr. Smith, the chairman. The meeting then adjourned.

This meeting only heaped coals on the fire. It made the Ralston people more determined than ever, while it brought to their side many who before had been indifferent but now were made indignant at the denial to Ralston and his colleagues of the right of defense. More friends were made when it leaked out that a night or two after this meeting a delegation had gone to Ralston's premises after all the family had got to bed, and, going to the well, had tied up the rope, the buckets and the wheel and thrown them all down into the water. Such persecution together with the personal abuse and slander they indulged in could not help but react against their authors, the more especially as Ralston and his friends never forgot themselves or lost their dignity.

CHARLES H. LONG.

THE TAX BILLS TALK.

But the "anti-single taxers," as they were called, received their heaviest blow when the tax bills under the new tax ordinance went out. Most of the householders were amazed to find that instead of having their tax burden increased, as they had been given to suppose would

be the case, it was decreased from ten to sixty per cent. from the figures of last year. One of these bills I here present. It was made out to Mr. Ralston's mother and relates to several lots with improvements:

Notice.—All taxes must be paid within one hundred and twenty (120) days from date, or treasurer will proceed to collect the same, as provided by section 17, Town Charts.

HYATTSVILLE, P. G. Co., Md., July 1, 1892.

Mrs. HARRIET N. RALSTON.

To the Town of Hyattsville, Md., Dr.
For real estate tax for year ending May 31, 1893.
Tax 25 cents per $100 valuation.

Subdivision.	Square.	Lot.	Value of lot.	Improvements excepted and deducted from Assessment List.
Hyatt & Smith		25		
" "		26	$800	$950
Whiteside sub.		1	300	
27–28		2	325	1,600
" "		3	400	

Assessed valuation of land..... $1,825 00
Tax on same..... 4 56
Interest 6 per cent. after November, 1892.

Received payment July 16, 1892.
W. H. RICHARDSON, Treasurer.

It is true that the actual amount of money involved was very small; but the principle at stake was none the less strong, and a number of the citizens, up to that time associating with the society saviors, and who had signed the resolutions condemning the three commissioners, announced that Ralston's measure was presented to them in an entirely new light by the tax bills.

MEETING OF THE BOARD.

Meanwhile, the Board of Commissioners unanimously agreed that there should be a meeting of the Board on Saturday evening, July 16, at which the committee of five appointed by the indignation meeting should be heard. This Saturday night meeting of the Board I attended. It was held in Lodge's law office, a little low ceilinged, white walled room, twelve by fifteen, with two windows and two doors, and having for furniture a large map of the United States against the wall, a roller-topped desk, two pine tables and some rough wooden chairs. At one of the tables, in the centre of the room, sat President of the Board Ralston with Clerk Lewin, and carelessly ranged around the room, and filling the open windows and doorways were the four other members of the Board, Town Treasurer Richardson and a number of citizens. The two commissioners of the society saviors side, Messrs. Latimer and Amen, were large, elderly, hard-working, suntanned men in appearance—one a surveyor, the other a railroad worker. In contrast to them were Commissioners Long and Britt—small, pale-faced and much younger men.

LOUIS O. WYSSMAN.

CHARLES H. LONG.

Charles H. Long is about 40, a plate printer by trade, and employed in the Government engraving and printing office. He has for nine years lived in Hyattsville, and during that time has been a member of the Plate Printers' Association of the Knights of Labor, where, if he did not take part in discussions on ecnomic questions, and among them the single tax, which has long been a burning question in the order in and about Washington, he, at least, came within the influence of those who did engage in such discussions, and who became ardent believers in the principle of the taxation of land values. While he may have looked favorably upon such ideas he might never have acted had it not been for two incidents which brought conviction home to him. One incident related to some improvements he made on his little home. They were small improvements, but the assessor discovered them nevertheless, and increased his tax bill thirty cents. Long expostulated on the ground of principle against the increase, declaring that he believed he was suffering a great injustice in being taxed for doing what was a benefit not only to himself but to the community. This would have been enough for a man like Long, but conviction was made doubly sure when he discovered that a lot adjoining his, and which had been offered him for $375, was run up to $475, when he and some others made improvements. The increased value of the adjoining lot he clearly saw came not from anything the owner of that lot had done but solely from the efforts of others. In this practical way Mr. Long thoroughly learned his lesson that both the existing taxation system and the system of land ownership were wrong, and he quickly caught up the single tax idea, and, when the opportunity afforded, helped to apply it.

GEORGE S. BRITT.

Georges S. Britt is 37 years of age, was born in Baltimore, received a common school education and learned his trade of a book-binder in Washington. He came to live in Hyattsville five years ago. Mr. Britt has long been an active Knight of Labor, having held many offices in that order and being for some time a delegate to the National Trades' Assembly. It was in the Order that he received his first knowledge of the single tax. He read several books on that subject and took part in discussions, so that long before he dreamed of being a commissioner at Hyattsville he was a staunch member of the faith.

GUISTA AND WYSSMAN.

Among the other men in the room were William Guista and Louis O. Wyssman, who with Ralston, were the three first single taxers in Hyattsville, and from whom the movement has sprung. William Guista is a man of rare parts, about 50 years of age, an Italian by birth, a printer by trade, was a soldier in a New York heavy artillery regiment during the war, suffered imprisonment at Andersonville, was editor of a New Orleans sugar paper, was a printer with Ralston in the Government printing office for a time, and is now in the Commissary's office of the War Department in Washington. He is doubtless the best educated man in Hyattsville, speaks several languages with fluency and elegance, has a large knowledge of the exact sciences as he is a man of extensive reading. He owns a small home in Hyattsville, and with Ralston and Wyssman has long cherished the idea of making Hyattsville the first single tax town in the United States.

Louis O. Wyssman is of about the same age as Mr. Guista, is an American by birth, the son of a German soldier who served under the first Napoleon, and was himself a brave soldier during our civil war, but, unlike his friend Guista, was on the Southern side, being one of Jeb Stewart's cavalrymen, but like Guista suffered imprisonment. He is a carpenter and builder by trade. He is a man of large reading, of delightful conversational powers, and of acute analytical mind.

On being called to order the board took up some routine work and soon finished it. The board was then ready to hear the committee from the indignation meeting, but those gentlemen had not yet put in an appearance, and fears began to be entertained that they would not come, a statement to that effect having appeared in the Washington Star of that afternoon, the Star saying: "The committee appointed at the recent meeting of anti-single tax men to present to them the resolutions adopted at that meeting will not wait upon them then, as it believes the meeting will be entirely too public, and that the single tax supporters will be there in full force to argue the merits of that measure."

President Ralston called the town bailiff and requested him to at once notify Dr. Wells that the board had transacted its routine business and would be pleased to give him and his committee a hearing. While President Ralston was speaking Dr. Wells and three of the committee entered, Mr. Wine being absent. Commissioners Britt and Long gave up their chairs and then the president in a graceful, dignified manner stated that he was just instructing the bailiff to notify the committee of the readiness of the board to hear anything they desired to say.

THE RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD.

It was apparent that Dr. Wells was to be spokesman for the committee, and all eyes were directed toward him. He had evidently expected a very different kind of reception and seemed considerably disconcerted. He said, however, that he had come with the other gentlemen to present the views of a public meeting disagreeing with the recent action of the board, and that those views were embodied in the resolutions, a copy of which he handed to the clerk. The president requested the chairman of the committee to read the resolutions, which added to Dr. Well's confusion. He replied that he thought every man present must be aware of the import of the resolutions, if he had not actually been present at their adoption. President Ralston gently urged the doctor to read them, nevertheless; and so, amid a mock solemnity, and addressing himself to Ralston, who wore an irresistibly funny owl-like expression of countenance, the leader of the society saviors read the resolutions. After he finished reading, President Ralston courteously asked if he or any of the other gentlemen of the committee had any remarks to make, to which they answered in the negative.

Commissioner Britt then arose and moved that the resolutions be accepted, and that the Board of Commissioners make its answer at a public meeting of all the citizens of the town on Thursday evening, July 21. With the same comical owl-like expression President Ralston repeated Commissioner Britt's motion and put it to the Board, who agreed to it without any dissent.

WILLIAM GUISTA.

The members of Dr. Wells's committee looked nonplussed at this extraordinary and utterly unlooked-for action of the Ralston members of the Board, and without a word they filed out of the room, President Ralston rising and gravely bowing as they passed. After making the necessary arrangements for the meeting, the Board adjourned.

Thus stands the single tax fight at Hyattsville. The three "guilty" commissioners glory in what they have done. They have had to suffer the sharpest of criticism and the slings of calumny, but they are now beginning to drink of the sweets of victory. Not the least pleasant features of the fight to them have been the letters of encouragement that have come from various parts of the country and the resolutions passed by the Manhattan Single Tax Club and other organizations. District Assembly 66 of the Knights of Labor, which embraces Washington, D. C., by unanimous vote praised Ralston for his courageous and successful fight to obtain the adoption in Hyattsville of the land plank of the Knights of Labor.

A great deal can be done to strengthen Messrs. Ralston, Britt, and Long if our friends everywhere will write letters of encouragement to them, and a powerful effect can be made on public opinion in Hyattsville if individuals and organizations telegraph words of cheer to the mass meeting in Hyattsville next Thursday night.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS.

Since the foregoing account of Hyattsville matters was written, there have been important developments. The anti-single tax party have manifested very much disgust at the action of the Board of Commissioners in calling a public meeting of all the citizens of Hyatsville for Thursday night, at which to answer the charges made in the resolutions passed at the anti-single tax meeting last week. This, they fear, will lead to a public discussion of the single tax question, and discussion is precisely what

they they do not want; and some of them have gone so far as to say that Dr. Wells and his people not only should not attend the meeting, but should not receive the utterances of the commissioners at that meeting as an answer to their resolution. However, the meeting will be held, with or without Dr. Wells and his people, and the Board of Commissioners will deliver its reply. The three single tax commissioners have full confidence that the people have but to understand the facts as to the law governing and the effects following their action to pronounce in emphatic terms their strong approval. Messrs. Ralston, Britt, and Long have from the beginning abstained from all personalities, but it is now becoming apparent to any one who will use his eyes that the ordinance exciting all the contention has been actually beneficial to a large majority of the citizens of Hyattsville, in reducing their taxes, while it has hurt only those who have been working to the injury of the town by speculating in land.

There are on the anti-single tax side a number of very active lawyers. These men have advised going into court, and it now appears that they have obtained an alternative writ of mandamus, calling on the Board of Commissioners to show cause why improvements should not be restored to the tax list. The writ has not yet been issued and its terms are not generally known, but probably it calls for argument within the usual time of ten days. On learning that the fight might be carried into the courts, Mr. Johnson sent to Mr. Ralston the following telegram:

If they carry the single tax question into court count on me for aid to fight the case. I will have my attorney assist you if necessary. The best thing for the cause is the protest that is going on. TOM L. JOHNSON.

There is a still stronger instance of the desperation that the anti-single taxers have reached. They are indulging in threats, and, as it now developes, have deliberately set about to destroy the three single tax commissioners who will not resign. Ralston they do not yet appear to know how to get at; but Britt and Long they believe they can reach through an old order issued by President Grant twenty years ago, declaring that no Government employee in the departments at Washington should engage in politics under pain of dismissal from the service. To say nothing of its age and the manifest fact that it has for long years been in disuse, it is obvious that this order had reference to national politics alone, and had nothing whatever to do with municipal affairs. However, the Wells people are bent on "galvanizing" the corpse for use against Britt and Long, who are in the Government service at Washington. The former is a binder in the Government printing office and the latter a plate printer in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It seems hardly possible that the society saviors can succeed in obtaining the dismissal of Britt and Long, even by the observance of a strict construction of this resurrected order, but it furnishes a fresh illustration of the extremes to which they are now prepared to go, and must show to our single tax people all over the country the urgency of their doing all in their power to strengthen the three men just now called upon to bear the brunt of the single tax fight.

AGITATION ALONG SHORE.

When Bolton Hall took a cottage for the summer at Bay Shore, L. I., he began to look round for single taxers, and found that Hugh B. Brown, who has the principal news agency there, has been waving the light for several years, and three miles away was James Bowland; but it is only recently that signs can be seen of a new convert or two. Mr. Brown, having received Mr. Hall's re-inforcement, now plans an open air "cat" walk for a Saturday night on the main street when colored fire will be used to draw the crowd.

The difficulty with the single tax movement at Bay Shore, according to Mr. Brown, is that the bay, not being owned, baymen can make good wages fishing, clamming, or sailing. A good clam hand can get out the worth of six or eight dollars a day, and the land being flat and the roads good, the pressure of rent and monopoly are not much felt. This state of things is passing away as the land is advancing rapidly. One man, however, has found a way of dodging the earth owner and the county tax gatherer. He bought a huge, old scow, anchored it out in the bay and built a two-story hotel on it.

Rev. Henry A. Adams is visiting at Babylon, four miles from Bay Shore, where he is preaching straight New Testament gospel and single tax right along.

BATTLE CREEK.

The Battle Creek (Mich.) Club, after listening to a single tax paper of exceptional ability by A. E. Preston, an ex-assessor of Battle Creek, has adjourned over until fall. Meantime, Axel G. Burman, the president, would be glad to correspond with single taxers in his part of Michigan with a view to consolidating effort in the future.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN BROOKLYN.

A number of active single tax men and women met at the rooms of the Brooklyn Single Tax Club on Wednesday evening, July 13, and formed "The Single Tax League of Kings County." The following officers were elected: President, John Filmer; vice-president, Mrs. Morgan; corresponding secretary and treasurer, Martin Battle; recording secretary, Wm. J. Hazan. The objects of the League are "to disseminate correct principles of taxation and put them in practice through political action." It is proposed to carry on an active political campaign this Fall, the plan of which is now being matured. The dues are twenty-five cents per month. Residents of Kings who desire to contribute to or actively assist a live organization which intends "to do something for the single tax," are invited to attend a meeting of the League at 35 Schermerhorn street, Brooklyn, Wednesday, July 20, at 8 P. M. Applications for membership may be sent to Martin Battle, 319 Monroe street, Brooklyn.

On Sunday, July 3, District Assembly 220 Knights of Labor, adopted resolutions endorsing Tom L. Johnson's bill to tax land values and exempt improvements in the District of Columbia. Copies were sent to all of the New York state representatives and senators in Washington. Acknowledgments were received from Senator Hiscock and Representatives Tracy, Bacon and Chapin, and promises to support the bill from Representatives Follows, Cummings, Magner and DeWitt Warren.

CHICAGO.

Warren Worth Bailey writes that the spirits of Chicago single taxers have been greatly refreshed and revived by recent showers of good news from various points of the compass. "The meeting of two weeks ago," he says, "following close after the Homestead affair, and devoted to the discussion of that episode, was literally a corker, the few incendiary utterances of visitors being more than off-set by the sober, yet powerful and moving arguments of John Z. White and others. At the last meeting the club-room was crowded, as usual. The night was hot, but that seemed to make no difference, even the ladies coming out in unusual numbers. Dr. Joseph Adams was the speaker, and in his own characteristic way he told "How to Bell the Cat." A number of brief talks were made, the speakers including ex-Senator Rice, of Morris, Ill., who seems to be coming our way with rapid strides, Mr. Zippert, Walter F. Cooling and Ralph E. Hoyt, the latter convulsing the audience by his dry humor.

LIGHT IN ELGIN.

The people of Elgin, Ill., are beginning to see what the single tax might do if it had a chance. Their single tax assessor has but stopped the old favoritism toward owners of vacant lots, and already one large vacant landowner, who always refused to sell, improve, or use his land, offers it for sale.

Dr. Cornick, of Knickerbocker, Texas, explained the Henry George theory at the Sherwood, Texas, barbecue, on the Fourth of July, to a large and appreciative audience of Democrats.

NEW ZEALAND AND VICTORIA.

In New Zealand, the single tax law, which has been described in THE STANDARD, though loaded down with a supplementary tax on incomes, is making its influence felt in the direction of reviving industry. In Victoria, the protective tariff and land booms have brought on a collapse. In the latter colony, however, the single tax is now fairly within the range of practical politics. W. E. Johnson gives this description of the advance of the movement there:

Last Easter we held our third annual conference, at which some twenty-five branches were represented by delegates, and some very solid work was put in. The Single Tax League is really the only live political organization here at present with the exception, perhaps, of the recently formed National Association, the object of which appears to be to disfranchise men of liberal and progressive political opinions, and to maintain class legislation in the interests of special privilege at all hazards. We hold public meetings every week in one or other suburbs of Sydney, and frequently three and four meetings are held in one week. Our great difficulty is to get the ear of people in the rural districts, but we hope during the ensuing year to arrange for a traveling lecturer to be kept going constantly and particularly in the semi-civilized districts where the superstition of protection is most deeply rooted. We reach a large proportion of them now by means of leaflets, 100,000 of which were distributed during the last twelve months. Sixty thousand of these were presented to the league by the agents of Messrs. Tangye Brothers, the famous Birmingham engineering firm of manufacturers.

The tariff furnishes us with abundant object lessons for our propaganda, and has done more to break the back of the protectionist craze than all the arguments of free traders and single taxers could possibly have done in the same time. The Daily Telegraph has for a long time past gone straight for land value taxation, and it is a powerful factor in moulding political thought. We are undoubtedly making headway, and in quarters where we would least expect our ideas to be even entertained seriously for a moment; and it is a most significant sign of progress that the Church is beginning to interest itself in the question and to take sides in the discussion. The Rev. Dr. Roseby, chairman of the Congregational Union, has been doing yeoman service on our behalf, and the Revs. Fergusson, Smith, Kinghorne and others have materially assisted in spreading a knowledge of our principles. The Church is essentially conservative, and is slow to "cotton" to reforms. It invariably lags behind, and is the last to fall in line. The fact that it is now falling into line therefore is deeply significant.

At the Victorian annual conference, mentioned above by Mr. Johnson, sympathetic reference was made to the loss of Wm. T. Croasdale.

The railroads are public property in Victoria, and the expense of buying lands for railroad purposes has been enormous. But the Railway Committee of the colony has now pointedly called attention to the fact that landowners along railway lines are paid twice over. After showing that railways increase the value of land along the lines by from 25 to 50 per cent. the committee says that under the present system the landowner receives the whole of that increased value, and, further, that the State has, in acquiring lands for railways, to pay not only the price of the land before the line was authorized but also the enhancement in value given to it solely by that railway, and heavy damages for severance in addition. Of five lines of a total of 118 miles, estimated to cost £840,000, the capital value of the properties served would increase over £1,000,000. They then recommend that a certain line be constructed on condition that the land required is given to the Government free of cost, and that the residents contribute £5,000 should the revenue be insufficient to meet the working expenses and interest on cost of construction.

Along the same line of reform, but more to the point, the Victorian Railways Gazette, the organ of the Traffic Union of Victoria, proposes and is fighting for a substitute for the proposition to reduce the wages of railway employees. It says:

Stripped of all verbiage, our scheme is: That the interest on construction amount and cost of maintenance of permanent way, amounting together to about £1,500,000 a year, be paid out of taxes, the same as the construction and maintenance of common roads is paid out of rates; the loss to the general revenue to be recouped by a tax of, say, 4d. in the £ on the unimproved value of land. The value of land in private hands, all improvements being deducted, amounts to about £115,000,000, of which about £16,000,000 worth is owned by farmers, the remainder being city, suburban, squatting, and mining properties. A tax on land values would therefore fall very lightly upon farmers, and justly, too, as it is the city lands that reap the greatest benefit from railways and other improvements made by the community. The construction and maintenance of the lines being thus provided for, the receipts would be only required to cover working expenses, thereby enabling fares and freights to be reduced to less than one-half what they are at present, which would mean a saving to the farming community of over £1,000,000 per annum, after contributing their portion (£370,000) of the land tax.

SINGLE TAX LETTER WRITERS.

Divisions A, I and J—L. R. Fiske, D. D., president of college at Albion,

Mich. His recent bacalaureate address is printed in the Michigan Christian Advocate, and contains a strong appeal to the graduates to stand for the right in the social and political world. He says there is no true political economy in defiance of the moral law, but evidently needs yet to be shown the system which would hold to it.

Divisions L, G and N—Caldwell Edwards, Bogeman, Mont. Is the nominee for Congress of the People's party of that state. Finds his chief objections to the single tax in the fear that it would give one man opportunity to oust another from the ground he occupied by bidding higher for it, and in a failure to see the justice to all in its application, as in the amount of assessment in cases where there were adjoining unused lots.

Division H—Mr. J. G. Irwin, Edwardsville, Ill.

Division M—Mr. A. Showers, superintendent of Grangers, Visalia, Cal.

Division O—Mr. Charles E. Wood, land surveyor, New Westminster, B. C.

The names of the above gentlemen are sent us in the hope that a general statement of the principles and purpose of our movement may be of interest to them.

Divisions B and C—The Democrat, a new paper published at Sedalia, Mo. Send letters advocating free trade.

Divisions D and E—The Mountain Democrat, Pineville, Ky., has published articles on free trade and single tax as remedies for hard times.

Probably similar letters would now be welcome.

Divisions F and K—Carnesville Tribune, Carnesville, Ga., editor is Mrs. Helen Dortch. Try to get letters on political situation published.

The following is the list of members of the National Democratic Committee:

National Committee.—Alabama, Henry D. Clayton, Eufala; Arkansas, U. M. Rose, Little Rock; California, M. F. Tarpey, Almeda; Colorado, Chas. S. Thomas, Denver; Connecticut, Carlos French, Seymour; Delaware, Lewis C. Vandergrifter; Florida, Samuel Pasco, Monticello; Georgia, Clark Howell, Jr., Atlanta; Idaho, Frank W. Beane, Blackfoot: Illinois, Ben T. Cable, Rock Island; Indiana, S. P. Sheerin, Logansport; Iowa, J. J. Richardson, Davenport; Kansas, Chas W. Blair, Leavenworth; Kentucky, Thos. H. Shirley, Louisville; Louisiana, James Jeffries, Rapidies; Maine, Arthur Sewall, Bath; Maryland, Arthur P. Gorman, Laurel; Massachusetts, Josiah Quincy, Boston; Michigan, Daniel J. Campau, Detroit; Minnesota, Michael Doran, St. Paul; Mississippi, Chas. P. Howry, Oxford; Missouri, John G. Prather, St. Louis; Montana, A. J. Davidson, Helena; Nebraska, Tobias Castor, Lincoln; Nevada, R. P. Keating, Virginia City; New Hampshire, Alvan W. Sulloway, Franklin; New Jersey, Miles Ross, New Brunswick; New York, William F. Sheehan, Buffalo; North Carolina, N. W. Ranson, Weldon; North Dakota, William C. Laisterkow; Ohio, Calvin S. Brice, Lima; Oregon, E. D. McKee, Portland; Pennsylvania, Wm. F. Harrity, Philadelphia; Rhode Island, Samuel R. Honey, Newport; South Carolina, M. L. Donaldson; Tennessee, Holmes Cummings, Memphis; Texas, O. T. Holt, Houston; Vermont, Bradley T. Smalley, Burlington; Virginia, Basil B. Gordon, Sandy; Washington, Hugh C. Wallace, Tacoma; Wisconsin E. C. Wall, Milwaukee; Wyoming, W. L. Kuykendall, Saratoga; Alaska, A. K. Delaney, Juneau: Arizona, Charles M. Shannon, Clifton; District of Columbia, James L. Norris, Washington; New Mexico, H. B. Ferguson; Oklahoma, T. M. Richardson, Oklahoma City; Utah, Samuel A. Merritt, Salt Lake City; Indian Territory, Dr. E. N. Allen, McAllister.

Letter-writers and STANDARD readers are requested to address the members of the committee in their respective states, urging the circulation of large editions of "Protection or Free Trade," as republished from the Congressional Record. The importance of pressing this matter will be clear to every single taxer.

Minnesota and Wisconsin have already undertaken to distribute 50,000 and 100,000 copies, and need not be addressed, but other states should be stimulated to follow their example.

New York, P. O. Box 471. MARIAN DANA MACDANIEL, Secretary.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

The National Committee is carrying on the newspaper work of the Memphis committee in supplying news companies with single tax matter for their ready prints and plates.

Receipts for week ending July 19:

Western Newspaper Union Company's single tax moulds	$15 00
Chicago Newspaper Union Company's single tax moulds	15 00
	$30 00
Balance reported last week	32 92
Total	$62 92
Due from newspaper companies for single tax moulds	15 00
Liabilities	$77 92
Due A. N. Kellogg Newspaper Company for composition, etc.	78 75
Deficit	83

GEO. ST. JOHN LEAVINS, Secretary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

——Judge C. F. Perry writes from Quincy, Ill.—I feel very confident that Cleveland and Stevenson will be elected and, with your permission, I will briefly state some of the reasons for this opinion:

We have all the advantages of 1888 and several new and important ones. The tariff reform education during the four years has been great indeed. A majority of the States now have the secret ballot. We have the prestige of the "landslide" of 1890. Some States which in 1888 were "safely Republican," are now very doubtful. The tendency among the common people in the Republican party to go with a third party or the Democratic party is very much stronger than in 1888. The lamentable tragedy at Homestead must strengthen that tendency greatly. The Republican party is not as harmonious as in 1888. Owing to the electoral change in Michigan, we are certain of part of the vote there. Our platform is by far the strongest we ever had, especially the superb free trade plank, emphasized by the rejection of the wretched "straddle." Cleveland, justly the idol of democracy and the hope of mug-wumpery, is far stronger than in 1888—when he carried the popular vote. I am confident that his acceptance will add greatly to his strength. Stevenson is deservedly popular, perfectly in touch with Cleveland, and his selection, coupled with local advantages, will probably turn Illinois.

As for New York, expressing the opinion of one at a distance, I believe that Cleveland and Stevenson's majority there will be so large as to surprise even single tax Democrats — and we are, generally speaking, optimistic.

——W. L. Crossman writes from Boston: The nomination of Whitelaw Reid by the Republicans had the effect of changing a number of printers' votes to the Democrats. In my circle of acquaintances I know a number of such cases. The Homestead affair has strengthened these voters and converted a number of others.

CONGRESSMAN WHITE'S GREAT SPEECH.

In response to a request from the Manhattan Single Tax Club, the Hon. L. E. White has sent the club two thousand copies of the eloquent free trade speech delivered by him in Congress. This speech can be furnished ready wrapped and addressed for $1.75 the thousand copies.

THE COMING POLITICS.

Sycamore (Ill.) Democrat.

The single tax is the coming politics. Its adherents will be those from all parties and all creeds. It proposes to benefit the many with that which the many have produced, and it is opposed to the present law that benefits the few at the expense of the many. It is "a revelation and a revolution." To thoroughly investigate its principles is to become a single taxer. Advocating its cause to-day are some of the best and most brainy men in the world. In its practical use it is most beneficial to the farmer, for it is not a tax on land but on *land values*. Right here is the stumbling block for nearly all who start to investigate its principles. A little light is all that is needed.

STATE AID IN ROAD BUILDING.

E. J. Shriver in Good Roads.

If we only had a rational system of State taxation, levied solely upon land values and exempting improvements entirely, not a word could be said justly against such aid; for as the value of adjacent land is inevitably enhanced by such public improvements—and that value only—the increase of taxable basis would always distinctly reimburse the State for such outlays; but even under our present complex system, this effect would be experienced in great measure, and, in any event, the sections which would really foot the bill are not the ones from which opposition comes.

PEOPLE'S PARTY CALL FOR FUNDS.

The executive committee of the National People's party have issued a call for campaign funds to be forwarded to M. C. Rankin, treasurer of the committee, at Terre Haute, Indiana.

AN ECHO FROM HOMESTEAD.

Chicago Herald.

The protective tariff never increased wages a farthing's worth in this country. Its instant and utter destruction would not reduce them a farthing's worth. There are misguided people who believe to the contrary—for every swindler has his dupe—but the mass of Republican party leaders, orators and editors know they lie when they claim to the contrary.

DEMOCRACY.

Thomas Jefferson.

I am for free commerce with all nations.

THE INSPIRATION OF TRUTH.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

The tariff plank substituted by the National convention for the protection rot reported to it by its weak, time-serving, and ignorant platform committee, puts the Democratic party upon high and firm ground; it carries with it the force and the inspiration of truth; it squares the record by the antecedents of the candidate, who, accepting his great message of 1887 as a platform in itself, is nothing if not a revenue reformer of the tariff-for-revenue-only brand, quoted first class and warranted to keep!

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

DOMESTIC.

Cyrus W. Field is dead.

The report of William Waldorf Astor's death was false.

Half a dozen of the Homestead strikers have been informed against for murder because of the killing of Pinkerton detectives. Gen. Butler has agreed to defend them.

M. Hygris, of Delaware, has introduced into the United States Senate a bil providing for retaliatory duties on fish and retaliatory port and canal duesl upon Canadian ships because of Canada's discrimination against American commerce and fishermen.

United States troops have subdued the strikers at Coeur d' Aline, Idaho, who recently blew up a factory occupied by non-union miners.

Under Mississippi's new constitution the registered white vote will be amount 80,000, and the registered colored vote about 10,000. The population is about equally divided between the two races.

FOREIGN.

A landslide at Saint Gervaic-les-Bains, a watering place in Savoy, France, did great damage to property, and caused a loss of nearly 200 lives.

The latest summary shows that Mr. Gladstone will have for Home Rule a parliamentary majority of 36.

The Island of Sangia, of the Philippine group, in the Indian ocean, has been dislodged by an earthquake, and the whole population, 12,000 people, were drowned.

PERSONAL.

Chloe Estella Bachman was born at Mauch Chunk, Penn., April 23, 1860, her father's ancestors being among the early settlers in Pennsylvania, and her mother's among New England people all the way back to the Mayflower. Father and mother were both natives of Connecticut. In 1865 her father died, and afterward her mother taught school for six years. Almost from babyhood Miss Bachman was quite deaf, but was able to attend the public schools at Mauch Chunk until 12 years old. She then moved with her mother, who had married again, to the "oil regions" in Pennsylvania, and lived in several places in Clarion and Butler counties. Her deafness increased so she could no longer attend school, but her mother taught her at home and she read all the books and papers that she could lay hands on.

In March, 1874, Miss Bachman's mother died, and she was taken to the home of her brother, Hon. E. N. Frisbie, then of Elmira, N. Y. She remained there four years, where she had a private teacher, Miss C. L. Chubbuck, then a teacher in Elmira College, who greatly admired Harriet Martineau, and held her up as a model. Miss Bachman's uncle was a strong "woman's rights man," as they called it then, and active in Republican politics, and as he like[illegible] draw her out" on such subjects she became very much interested in politics and social questions. During the winter and spring of 1877-'78 she attended a boarding school at Aurora, N. Y., but in the fall of 1878 she went to West Pittston, Penn., where, being thrown on her own resources, and finding her deafness always in the way when she tried to get other work, she began earning her living by doing plain sewing. In 1881, she went to Bradford, Penn., and there learned dress-making and also the value of odd minutes for reading and study. Returning to Mauch Chunk in September, 1882, she worked at her trade for nine years.

In 1888 she became acquainted with E. R. Enbody who, finding her interested in ballot reform, lent her a copy of THE STANDARD containing an article on the Australian system. She read that article and then all the rest of the paper. This led her to question Mr. Enbody who gladly explained the single tax. She was at once interested and profoundly impressed with its absolute justice. Mr. Enbody continued to lend her THE STANDARD every week till she was able to subscribe. He also lent her Henry George's works and many other books on various phases of the social problem. She read all eagerly and with an ever increasing desire to devote her life to teaching the great truth of the single tax. She soon joined the letter writing corps, and continued in that till after the National Single Tax Conference in September, 1890; she then read and re-read the account of the conference and was determined to find a way to do more for the cause, especially to interest women in it. In November, 1890, the Women's Enrollment Committee, so named by Mr. Croasdale, was formed, and Miss Bachman was appointed secretary. She gave every spare moment to that work till July, 1891, when the Single Tax Propaganda Committee was formed and later organized as the Single Tax Propaganda Association, of which she was made acting secretary. Through the aid of some earnest single taxers she was then able to give all her time to single tax work, and now, as acting secretary of the Single Tax Propaganda Association and general secretary of the Economic Reading Circles (started in the spring of '92) she is striving to do her part in advancing the great cause.

The American Journal of Politics, a new monthly magazine devoted to the discussion of social and political subjects of general interest, opens the July number with a strong article on Richard Cobden in the best style of that popular writer, General M. M. Trumbull, of Chicago.

Wm. A. Garretson, of Allegheny City, Penn., contributes a long and able article to the Pittsburg Post on "The Contract Labor Question," in which the relations of the laborer to the land are presented with exceptional clearness and force.

S. F. Evans, who recently horrified the Lord Mayor of London and his guests by refusing to stand when the Queen's health was drunk, has been returned to Parliament by a majority of 4,216 in a total vote of 7,666.

E. J. Shriver writes for Good Roads a capital political article relative to the subject of road building, wherein he considers the best lines along which forces shall be set to work to secure good roads. He opposes national road building, and advocates the interference of the states with counties and townships in only a modified degree and under judicious restrictions.

W. H. T. Wakefield has resumed the proprietorship and editorial management of the Lawrence (Kansas) Jeffersonian.

Ken Hardie, elected to Parliament for West Horn (South) by 1,232 majority over Major Barnes, who was sent to the last Parliament by 306 majority, puts land restoration in the fore front of his programme on the labor question.

The Daily Telegraph of Sydney, New South Wales, publishes a full account, from the pen of Henry George, Jr., its American correspondent, of the debate in Congress on the bill to place wool on the free list, in which Tom Johnson figured so prominently and so happily. The same account reports the proceedings that resulted in making Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade?" a Congressional document.

At the banner-raising of the "Twenty-third Assembly District Tammany Tariff Reform Club," New York City, James Hamilton Dillon was the principal speaker. Single tax men who know Mr. Dillon need not be informed that he laid special stress on the tariff issue, and gave to his Tammany hearers chunks of "free trade blood raw," which the tigers swallowed with avidity. He was frequently applauded, particularly when he made the most radical declarations, and at the close the president described the speech as a thorough and forcible presentation of the "supreme issue in this campaign."

In the annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for July Professor J. B. Clark, of Smith College, has a paper on "Patten's Dynamic Economics; Professor Leon Walras has one on the "Geometrical Theory of the Distribution of prices," and B. F. Hughes writes on the "Basis of Interest."

A CORDIAL INVITATION.

Wasco Co. (Oregon) Sun.

Henry George is one of the great original thinkers of our day, and while some of his ideas are in advance of present day politics they are strong, and you are invited to refute them if you can.

WEALTH PER CAPITA.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

The western editor who remarked that he didn't care for the per capita wealth, but wanted something to help the per pockets wealth, hit upon a distinction that has come home to most of us. The per capita wealth of this city, according to an estimate made by Commissioner Coleman, is a little over three thousand dollars. But the man with a wife and three children who figures out fifteen thousand dollars as the share of his family finds very little consolation in the figures. What really concerns us is how many families actually share in the wealth and are made independent and comfortable by means of it. The question has been answered for Detroit, Mich., by the State Labor Bureau. * * * Speaking roughly, therefore, Detroit's millionaires own one-third of her real estate and very nearly one-half of all her property.

WHAT IT WOULD DO.

Portland (Ore.) East Oregonian.

A tax on land values regardless of improvements will do much toward eradicating the abuses of land monopoly and giving the producer all of the fruits of his toil. It would undoubtedly compel the owner of land to be the user of land. It would take the unearned increment now going into the pockets of the monopolizers, manipulators, speculators and the idle rich classes and pay the expenses of government, thereby relieving labor and enterprise of the burden of taxation which is pressing the life out of them at present. It would stimulate industry; it would discourage speculation; it would lessen taxation; it would prevent land values from being inflated by schemers.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

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CIRCULATION OF "THE STANDARD."

Regular subscriptions received this week	26
Extension " " "	77
Trial " " "	67
Total subscriptions for week ending July 18	170
Unexpired subscriptions	5,779
Sales, etc	500
On hand for future sales	150
Total circulation, issue of July 20	6,599
Less exchange and free list	331
TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION	6,268

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THE HOUSEHOLD.

DECORATING TABLE LINEN.

ALICE CHITTENDEN.

Perhaps the only branch of fancy work that a housekeeper with limited means, time and skill can successfully accomplish, is that of ornamenting her table linen. I do not speak of such luxuries as cloths and napkins with hemstiching, drawn work and embroidery, but of a far more modest and yet sufficiently elegant decoration. There are *moments* in the lives of the busiest woman when to work at something dainty and pretty is as much needed a rest as sleep or a walk or a drive would be. Some one has defined rest as a change of employment.

The first desideratum in table linen is that it should be as fine, and of as good a weight as the purse will allow. Three or four table cloths at a dollar to a dollar and a quarter a yard, will last with proper laundering, and careful darning for five or six years; after their period of usefulness as table cloths has passed, the best parts of the borders can be made into napkins and tray cloths for every-day wear, and the more worn parts into dish towels and cloths.

For some time table linen of heavy, plain, satin damask has been very popular, but this, to be really handsome, requires hemstitching and drawn work or embroidery. For such of us as cannot afford to follow every change of fashion, damask linen, figured in the weave, with a pretty design of wild roses, clover leaves, clover blossoms, sweet peas or dogwood, is always graceful and chaming to look at. For one's company set it is best to have napkins to match, but as odd cloths and napkins can be purchased at a great reduction when the spring sales are over, our happiness will probably not be greatly affected if we use sweet pea napkins with a thistle cloth for ordinary occasions. Hem them just as neatly as you can. I have in mind one house where the napkins, of an exquisite quality of damask, are so carelessly hemmed that I feel as if I were carrying a kitchen towel to my lips.

The simplest and neatest form of decoration is a circle enclosing initials or monogram. For the cloth two or three initials are used. They should be from an inch to an inch and a half in length, and placed within the circle in the form of a triangle, that is with one letter at each angle of an imaginary triangle. If a single initial or monogram be used three inches will not be too long, and the same design is generally placed in two corners diagonally opposite each other. Neat German text, worked in satin stitch looks richer than a more elaborate design. After the letters are drawn mark the circle around them, using a cup or tumbler. The circle can be done in small neat feather stitch, sometimes called tree stitch, or in a succession of French knots a very little distance apart. Use a tiny after-dinner coffee cup or a silver dollar to draw the circles on the napkins, and make letters correspondingly smaller.

Another pretty and still simple design is the love knot, which may be worked solid in satin stitch, or in outline or rope stitch. Place the single initial or monogram between the flowing ends of the love knot, and let them correspond in size to that of the knot.

The next article in point of necessity is the carving cloth. With half a dozen of these and large napkins made from a worn tablecloth to put under the plates of the younger children, one cloth will look cleaner after a week's wear than three without them. Linen is the only suitable material for these, and a yard of butcher's linen, which is fifty inches wide and costs 50 cents will cut three a yard long and a little less than half a yard wide, that are very nice for constant wear. Baste a hem one inch wide on each end, and half an inch wide on the sides, and feather stitch them.

To make a more elegant carving cloth use a finer linen, half a yard wide and one and one-eighth yards long; fold in a three inch hem on both ends, draw the threads and hemstitch, finishing a half inch hem on the sides in like manner. Across the ends, above the hem, draw a pond lily design, flowers, buds, and stems only. Couch the outlines with soft white couching cord and darn the background of the border with gold-colored twisted silk. Regularity is a requisite in darning a background for embroidery, and care must be taken that the stitches of one line come directly under the spaces of the preceding one.

A pansy border is also very effective. This will require no hem on the ends. Draw the design of pansies close to the ends and couch the edges with soft white cord and find white floss. Then with white embroidery floss work a long and short Kensington stitch inside the cord. Cut out the edge just as you would a buttonholed scallop.

Not at all under the head of the necessary, but so charmingly dainty and inexpensive withal that we may be excused for coveting them, are centerpieces of linen, round or square. The round ones are fringed, and as this is a troublesome process it will be best to buy them already fringed. Then just inside of the fringe work a very even and narrow feather stitch. Inside of this draw or have stamped a circle of wild roses, which may be very quickly and effectively worked with two shades of pink embroidery silk. An artistic lady of my acquaintance draws her own designs and embroiders one of these dainty centerpieces in one afternoon and at a single sitting. Were it only to use during the month of June with a glass bowl filled with wild roses resting upon it, one would not begrudge the work.

I would advise any one about to make one of these charming heirlooms, for I have seen such pieces of work doing service for a second generation, to wait until the flower they wish to embroider is in season and then draw the design and match the silks with the flower itself before them. The colors used in a rose doily are two shades of pink, one of olive green for the leaves, one of brown for stems, and gold for the centres of the roses.

Maiden hair ferns make an exquisite decoration and are very quickly worked. For these use a square centre piece, hemstitched and edged with torchon lace, although this latter is not necessary. Draw a bunch composed of a few sprays of the fern with the stems pointing inward in diagonal corners and two bunches with the stems outward in the remaining corners. Tie each bunch with a very narrow ribbon about a quarter of an inch wide, with long flowing ends. Work the ferns in one shade of green, in Kensington stitch, using filo floss of the very best wash silks. Outline the pencilled ribbon by couching the edges with Japanese gold thread of the washable variety, and fill in between with an elongated herring-bone stitch.

Still another square for the centre of the table is made from a piece of linen five-eighths of a yard square. Mark, or have it stamped with a pattern of medium-sized grape leaves. Couch the edges of these with the soft white couching cord that comes for the purpose; work the veins in heavy cable stitch with white embroidery silk, and fill in the space with different kinds of fancy stitches.

From this you may go on to all sorts of extravagancies in the way of doyleys for water bottles, bon-bon dishes, cake plates and what not, or you may rest contented,

"And when one is contented, there is no more to be desired."

UNEARNED INCREMENT.

McGINTY'S CAT.

Malcolm J. McCarthy, in Grip.

You may talk about the yellow dog, the trouble that it makes,
And read a dissertation on the various kinds of snakes,
And tell of lions, tigers, and the pantry haunting rat,
But for pure and simple cussedness, give me McGinty's cat.

When old McGinty first bobbed up serenely from the sea,
His wife she got by way of treat some beefsteak for his tea.
She put the meat upon a dish; but while she cut some bread,
The cat jumped up and grabbed the meat and sneaked beneath the bed.

McGinty tore his hair with rage to think he'd lost his treat,
And swore he'd kill the "dirty baste" that robbed him of his mate.
He told his wife to jump around and shut the bedroom door,
And get things ready to begin the skirmish round the floor.

His wife she took a toasting-fork, McGinty took a spade;
McGinty's boy made haste to join his parents in the raid.
He grabbed the poker from the stove and swore he'd make it hot
And interesting for the cat, the first chance that he got.

Down went old McGinty on the floor upon his knees,
And he muttered something awful, as the cat he tried to seize.
Then he hit it with the shovel, just to drive it out from there,
And it flew into the cupboard, like a badly frightened hare.

Then old McGinty's wife ran in with toasting-fork in hand,
And things were getting lively when the kitten made a stand.
Then it scratched her on the stocking, just above her buttoned boot,
Which make her blush with anger—"the bold, indacent brute."

The boy ran to the rescue with the poker in his fist,
And every time he hit the cat bedad the poker missed;
Till getting quite excited then, he fought with might and main,
And raising high the poker, faith he hit it there again.

Without a moment's warning just to tell what it was at,
The cupboard door flies open wide, and then out leaps the cat;
They hadn't time to think or act, in fact they didn't see,
Before it landed right into the middle of the three.

They struck and floundered right about and madly beat the air,
The cat and old McGinty taking turn about to swear;
They pulverize each other, for they know not what they're at,
And every one gets roughly used except the blessed cat.

McGinty's boy let out a blow, and this I will declare
The cat had surely met its death, had it been only there;
But the only harm the poker did, 'tis terrible to note,
Was to send his mother's new false teeth a-flying down her throat.

Then down came old McGinty's fist and hit his son a crack;
His son then lost his temper, and he hit his father back;
The mother took a hand in, too, and helped to pile it on,
And when they all got quieted down, bedad the cat was gone.

The cat, from all appearance, had the best part of the fight,
For it gave McGinty's wife a most excruciating bite;
It scratched his son upon the nose, and tore McGinty's shirt;
So everyone within the room, except the cat, got hurt.

And now the fight is over, and the blood no longer flows,
But old McGinty's son wears sticking plaster on his nose.
McGinty's wife sewed up his shirt, and bandaged up her knee,
And taking pattern from the cat they all sat down to tea.

PARAGRAPHS.

Daughter—"Shall we invite Dr. Biglow to the reception?" Mother—"I think we'd better not, he's so absent-minded. He might charge it in the bill."—New York Weekly.

Mrs. Boodler—"It is a burning shame that my husband was defeated when he ran for alderman. Half the people in the city would have hailed his

election with joy." Mrs. Nabob—"Console yourself, my dear neighbor, with the thought that the other half of the people are rejoicing that he was defeated."—Texas Siftings.

"What is meant by realistic fiction?" "It means the kind of fiction in which the writer gives his characters his own virtues and his neighbors' failings."—Puck.

"Is this a life-saving station?" "Yes." "Then look alive and save my life. I've just swallowed a teaspoonful of paris green."—Puck.

Tell me not in mournful numbers
Life is but an empty dream,
For the milkman, 'mid your slumbers,
Mixes water with the cream.

—Chicago Globe.

The world is full of men who never forget a promise that is made to them.—Indianapolis Journal.

"Don't you think the baritone's voice has unusually fine timbre?" "Yes, some chords of it."—Washington Post.

"She waved her umbrella and caught his eye," said Hawkins. "Did it put the eye out?" asked Smithers, who had seen women waving umbrellas before.—Harpers' Bazar.

Mrs. Brown: "I don't half like that friend of yours—that fellow Smith." Mr. Brown: "Do you think you are a very good judge of men, my dear?" Mrs. Brown (with expression): "No, I do not."—New York Herald.

The inventor of the Waterbury watch has gone to eternity, the only place where there is time to wind a Waterbury watch.—Buffalo Express.

Clara: "And have you really decided to have him?" Maude: "Oh, yes." Clara: "Then why is the poor fellow going around with such a gloomy face?" Maude: "Oh, he doesn't understand me. I told him no."—Life.

There would be a good deal less anarchism in the country if the voice of the Church and the press were raised against the grasping by the rich of what they have not earned with the same strenuousness with which it is always raised against the grasping by the poor of what they have not earned.—Christian Union.

"The moment you make a man the owner of his own house, he ceases to be an Anarchist or a Socialist," and the moment you make him the owner of another man's house, he becomes a tyrant and misanthropist.

THE INQUISITIVE BOY.

Spokesman.

I always read those conversations which Life publishes between a father and his inquisitive boy, and every time I read one it reminds me of a conversation between a father and his son of which I have either read or dreamed. It went somewhat thus:

What place is that, pa?

That is a brickyard, my son.

Whose brickyard is it, pa?

It belongs to me, my son.

Do all these big piles of brick belong to you?

Yes, my son; every brick of them.

My! how long did it take you to make them? Did you make them all alone by yourself?

No, my son; those men you see working there make them for me.

Do the men belong to you, pa?

No, my son; those men are free men. No man can own another. If he could the other would be a slave.

What is a slave, pa?

A slave, my son, is a man who has to work for another all his life for only his board and clothes.

If a slave gets sick, who pays for the doctor, pa?

Well, his owner does; he can't afford to lose his property.

Why do men work so hard, pa? Do they like it?

Well, no, I don't suppose they do, but they work or starve.

Are these men rich, pa?

Not to any great extent, my son.

Do they own any houses, pa?

I rather guess not, my son.

Have they horses and nice clothes and do they go to the seaside when it's warm, like we do, pa?

Well, hardly; it takes them all their time to work for their living.

What is a living, pa?

Why, a living—well, for them a living is what they eat and wear.

Isn't that board and clothes, pa?

I suppose it is.

Well, are they any better off than slaves, pa?

Of course they are, you foolish boy. Why, they're free; they don't need to work for me if they don't like; they can leave whenever they choose.

And if they leave won't they have to work, pa?

Yes, of course they will; they will have to work for some one else.

And will they get anything more than a living from him?

No; I suppose not.

Well, then, how are they any better off than slaves?

Why, they have votes; they are free men.

If they get sick do you pay for the doctor, pa?

Catch me! What have I got to do with it? They must pay for their own doctor.

Can you afford to lose one of the men who work for you, pa?

Of course I can; it don't make any difference to me. I can hire another whenever I like.

Then you aren't so particular about them as if they were your slaves, are you, pa?

No, I suppose not.

Then how is it better for them to be free?

Oh, don't ask foolish questions, boy.

What are bricks made of, pa?

Of clay, my son.

Do the bricks belong to the men when they make them, pa?

No, my son, they belong to me.

Why, when the men make them?

Because the clay is mine.

Did you make it, pa?

No; God made it, my son.

Did he make it for you, pa?

No, I bought it.

Bought it from God?

No, from a man.

Did the man buy it from God?

No, of course not; he bought it from another man, I suppose.

Did the first man it was bought from buy it from God?

No, I suppose not.

How did he get it, then? How was it his more than anybody else's?

Oh, I don't know; I suppose he just claimed it

Then, if these men should claim it now, would it be theirs?

Oh, bother, don't be asking such foolish questions.

If you didn't own the brickyard and the clay, how would you make your living?

Oh, I don't know. I suppose I would have to work.

Would you make bricks, pa?

Maybe I would.

How would you like to make bricks for only your board and clothes, and let the man who claimed the brickyard have everything else?

Nobody'd care how I liked it. Poor people must work for their living.

If these men had brickyards of their own, would they work for you, pa?

Not likely; they'd work for themselves, probably.

Isn't it lucky that that man claimed this land first and that you bought it?

Why?

If he hadn't, maybe somebody else would have claimed it, and then maybe one of these men would own it now, and then—you'd have to work for him for your board and clothes.

Maybe. You ought to be thankful to Providence for his goodness to you in giving you a father who can support you without working.

Should these men's little boys be thankful to Providence, too, pa?

Well, I suppose they should.

What for, pa?

Oh, because their pas have steady work.

Is steady work a good thing, pa?

Of course it is, my son.

Then why don't you work, pa? Nobody could keep you from making bricks, could they?

No. I don't want to keep men out of a job. If I worked there wouldn't be a job for another man.

That's kind of you, pa. Do you think if you was to wheel that man's barrow once while he rested he'd get mad about it?

Oh, pshaw; gentlemen don't wheel barrows.

What's gentlemen, pa?

Why, gentlemen—men who don't need to work—the upper class.

I thought there wasn't any upper classes in this country. I heard a man say all men were equal.

The man who said it was a socialist or anarchist, or something; or maybe it was at election time and he was trying to catch votes.

Say, pa, my Sunday school teacher says we are all God's children. Is she a socialist or an anarchist, or is she trying to catch votes?

Oh, no; that's the right thing to say in Sunday schools and churches.

Well, pa, honest now; are these men God's children just as much as we are?

Why yes, my son; to be sure they are.

Say, pa, do you remember when you bought me that dozen allies for brother Jim and me and I grabbed them all and made Jim give me his top before I'd let him play with them, and you called me a greedy little hog and gave me a licking?

Yes, my son, I remember.

Well, do you think you did right?

Certainly, my son, a parent does right to correct his children and keep them from acquiring bad principles. I bought the marbles for you both. Jim had as much right to them as you.

Well, pa, if those men are God's children just as much as you, then you and them are brothers, and if you make them give you nearly all the bricks they make for allowing them the use of the clay which God made, isn't that the same as me making Jim give me his top for a chance to play with the marbles?

Oh, bother; don't ask such stupid questions.

Say, pa, do you think God thinks you are a greedy little hog, and that he will punish you for grabbing that clay?

Oh, don't talk so much. Say, ma, put this child to bed; he makes me tired.

AUTHOR OF THE LITTLE MINISTER.

New York Sun.

One does not meet James Matthew Barrie at the afternoon parties of London artistic folk, where even Thomas Hardy will come and show himself the most modest man in the room or the garden. In person Mr. Barrie is slight, and though of delicate physique is not delicate, but is a great lover of games and out-of-door sports. He is dark-haired and dark-eyed, with a very intellectual forehead. He is not in the least like Bob Angus, the hero of "When a Man's single." That book, which is taken by many to be largely autobiographical, is so only in the chapters concerning the hero's life in the office of the Mirror, which is recognized as the office of the Nottingham Journal. Now and then, too, an expression of the author's tastes creeps into the text, as when he says that Mary Abinger is one of those restless women who never wear beads or like twinkling things about their frocks.

Thrums is Mr. Barrie's birthplace, Kirriemuir, in Forfarshire. He was born there in May 9, 1860. In the first draft of "When a Man's Single," he described it in a sketch altered afterward for "Auld Licht Idyls." His books are full of bits of description of the place. In the earlier Auld Licht sketches he called it Whins, but finally settled on Thrums. The Auld Lichts are a little and very fierce sect, which seceded from the Presbyterian Church about a century and a half ago. It is of extreme rigidity as to points of doctrine. Kirriemuir weavers belong as a class to the Auld Lichts. Mr. Barrie's mother was an Auld Licht, and no doubt it is from her he has learned so intimately the spirit and traditions of the sect.

AMERICA'S ENGLISH BENEFACTOR.

General Trumbell in American Journal of Politics.

It might be an exaggeration to say that Richard Cobden was the greatest friend the American people ever had in Europe, for John Bright and others were equally interested in the welfare of the United States; but we may confidently say that he was the greatest benefactor the United States has had in Europe during the nineteenth century.

A DUEL WITH A GHOST.

E. Sparrow in the Evening Post.

THE CONFLICT.

[Continued from last issue.]—Johnson's field was soon reached by the singular company, and the thoroughbred ghost of the party proceeded to spread out the shroud, which contained a quantity of dust.

Joe and Hugh watched the movements of the shadowy second, and waited for Chopston's ghost to step up and show himself ready.

Suddenly the second threw a handful of the grave dust over Joe; and then set on him, and commenced tearing off his clothing, and actually pulling off his flesh.

"Hold there," said Joe, "I was not to fight you."

Hugh sprang to his friend's rescue, but clutch and strike as he would, he could not grasp nor even feel his opponent, who removed all the muscles and organs from his victim's person, and laid them out on the shroud.

"Be calm," interposed Chopston's ghost. "We were not matched while you were in that state. I have assumed bones for the time being, and it is only fair that you should lay aside your flesh."

Poor Joe was dismayed at finding himself dismantled in this horrid way. Why had he not fled? He remembered now Chopston's ghost speaking of his green, young skeleton. Why had it not occurred to him that his crafty opponent would insist on equalizing the conditions of the fight, or, more likely still, on getting some advantage over him? He gazed down ruefully at his members, which, so far as they were concerned, were all right; each muscle was entire, and had been removed with what seemed to Joe's medical mind the most exquisite skill, surpassing the most delicate dissection he had ever witnessed.

As for Hugh, he had turned pallid at the sight of poor Joe's condition, and had sunk upon a stone, entirely overcome with horror.

Joe recalled Chopston's latest words, and caught at the phrase "for the time being."

"Shall I be able to put them on again after the fight?" he inquired, pointing to the collection at his feet.

"Yes, if you win," replied Chopston's ghost.

"If I win?" echoed Joe.

"Yes. If I win they are mine," said the ghost

"Great heavens!" cried Joe.

Chopston's ghost grinned appallingly—a double grin; for the mouth of the skull was constantly grinning, and now the ghost's mouth, a little above, wore a similar horrid expression.

Hugh now recovered himself with an effort, and facing the ghost, he declared that his conduct was an infringement of duelling etiquette, and demanded that he should restore Joe immediately to his former condition.

"Let him get the advantage of me, and he shall have back his members," was the reply.

"But you will play some other trick," said Hugh hotly.

"No," said the ghost, "the case is a fair one now, and, upon my word, I do not know who will be the victor; there shall be fair play."

Joe's only hope seemed to be to win back his body with hard blows. Hugh's watch showed the time to be twenty minutes past one when the fight began. It was understood that there should be three rounds, and that the contest must be finished by two o'clock.

"Shake hands, old fellow," said Joe's skeleton, and Hugh could not refuse his friend this consolation, though it made him creep to feel the bony grasp.

"Be brave, Joe," he gasped. "I'm sure you will come out all right."

The pathetic communion of the friends was terminated by the other second, who said there must be no further delay. Joe and Chopston faced each other, and the contest began between the strangest pair of pugilists that ever held an encounter.

Both parties seemed to strike wildly at first, neither being accustomed to the scantiness of the mark. But presently the blows began to fall with ghastly rattle on ribs and skulls and vertebra. Here flew a rib and there a collar bone, and it seemed as if the combatants would scatter each other over the fields.

Hugh watched with spellbound interest; he glanced at his watch repeatedly; the skeletons whirled about and struggled furiously; they were so similar that he could hardly have told which was which had not Chopston's ghost loomed above its borrowed frame. It was nearly time to finish the first round. Joe was getting the worst of it; nearly all of his ribs were gone, part of his neck had been knocked from under his skull, and now his right arm was sent flying, shoulder-blade and all. Chopston would have been on him and *finished him in a minute*, but time was called, and the seconds rushed in and bore off their principals.

Hugh observed that Chopston's second went to collect his principal's bones, and proceeded to replace them. He did the same for Joe, and, as no bones were broken, the two skeletons seemed as well prepared for the second round as they had been for the first.

"How do you feel?" inquired Hugh anxiously.

"I don't feel," said Joe; "it is a good idea to lay aside one's nerves for a job of this kind." His excitement had diverted him enough to enable him to make this passing observation.

"Try and keep yourself more collected this time, and you will do splendidly, old fellow. You are over the shock now of losing all your foliage so suddenly," said Hugh.

Joe did fight better next time, but still the round was nearly finished before Chopston seemed to be giving out. Suddenly Chopston knocked off Joe's left arm at the same moment that the latter brought a telling blow with his right on his adversary's skull, which went spinning from its foundations.

"Finish him!" cried Hugh. But alas! the recoil of Joe's right-arm blow had dislocated that member, and it dropped beside its mate. Now time was called and the opponents retired for repairs.

"You will fix Chopston this time," said Hugh cheeringly, while he was replacing Joe's arms and other absent attachments. "I should think you would enjoy it immensely, seeing there is no hurt about it; you seem to be having a rattling time."

The consequences of the coming round were too vital for Joe to feel like replying to this levity, but as he got up to meet Chopston for the third time, he remarked: "There is something wrong about me; just look me over and see if my head is on right."

"Your head is looking the same way your feet are pointing," said Hugh.

Joe still expressed dissatisfaction, but the difficulty not appearing he advanced for the final encounter.

"Jupiter Olympus!" exclaimed Hugh, as he saw, on the first onset, the ribs of his principal flying in all direction, and falling in a shower around him. "What is the matter, Joe? strike out or you are done for."

Poor Joe was striking out his very best, but every time his arms flew out behind him instead of in front. What was the matter? Hugh soon discovered the trouble, and was smitten with bitterest self-reproach; he had put Joe's right arm on his left side and his left on his right.

"Time there!" he shouted. "Hold on! A mistake! Hold there! Hold there!"

Oh, what a mistake! Hugh sprang to his friend, as poor Joe fell in a scattered heap, and the merciless Chopston leaped upon him and pinned him down.

It was precisely 2 o'clock at this terrible moment, and Chopson arose, and went towards his second without making any demonstrations, as might have been expected from such a malignant being.

Poor Hugh set up his unhappy friend, and for the third time replaced his scattered bones.

"Where is my flesh?" groaned Joe.

"I will *fetch* it," said Hugh, but as he turned, a fresh horror confronted him; all traces of Chopston's ghost and the sheet full of Joe's members had disappeared, and the ghostly second could be seen departing and casting glances over his shoulder. Presently the second also disappeared. An incoherent exclamation escaped Hugh, and he staggered with faintness. He came back to the unhappy Joe, who began to saunter away, groaning at his lamentable condition. Hugh followed, too stunned by his own part in the dilemma to think of offering a word of comfort to his afflicted comrade. They did not exchange a word until they arrived at Joe's house; then Joe turned as he was ascending the steps and said feebly: "Don't come in Hugh; I don't need you." Hugh remained dumb, and watched his friend enter, so dreadfully altered since he came out the same door not three hours since; then, turning, he walked away, the saddest and most bewildered man in the world.

CONSEQUENCES.

Joe sat in his room a long time disconsolate. As the daylight began to dawn, the poor fellow noticed that his frame rocked unsteadily in the chair, and found himself clutching spasmodically to prevent himself from falling.

"I suppose I am dying," he said to himself, and he got up and staggered to his bed. After a wrestle with the bed-clothes, which was made more and more difficult by reason of his constantly failing strength, he covered himself. Then he lost his power of motion, and lay inert, though perfectly conscious.

The scene in Hugh's room was almost as painful. He had dropped into his usual seat and fallen forward upon his desk. In time he fell asleep, remaining in the same position until morning.

He was awakened late next morning by his mother ushering Mr. Van Bremen, the parent of Max, into his study. His mother was, of course, surprised to find him there; for she had supposed that he must be in his bedroom sleeping, after being detained out so late the previous evening.

Hugh did not recall the late scenes the moment he awoke, and his thought at present was to show every deference to the rich man, who might at that moment be intending to become his client.

"My dear sir," said Mr. Van Bremen with great agitation, "my son's grave has been rifled. It is *open and empty*, and the earth scattered about."

Hugh's brain whirled as he was reminded of the night by these words. He made no reply, but waited for his visitor to say more.

"I want your advice as a lawyer," continued Mr. Van Bremen, "and if any arrest is made, I want you to take the case in hand."

Hugh's situation was painful. He had dug up the bones himself, but he knew not where they were. He felt that an explanation would be worse than useless. Collecting himself he said to his client: "It is rarely that the perpetrators of such an act can be discovered; graves are robbed with the hope of an offered reward for the return of the remains."

The old man exclaimed that the rascals must be caught, but, as Hugh remained silent, he added an inquiry as to how much of an offer the young lawyer would recommend.

"That lies entirely at your discretion," replied Hugh. "The amount of the sum is supposed to represent the extent of the desire to have it effectual."

The poor old gentleman finally said that he would offer $5,000 as a reward.

As soon as he could Hugh started to see Joe, not knowing what consolation he could offer, but feeling that he must see him.

With downcast eyes he traversed the way, mechanically lifting his hat once on meeting an acquaintance, whom he did not recognize, and passing houses, trees, and crossings without being aware of their existence.

A stranger stopped him to make an inquiry, obliging him to raise his eyes. But something caught his gaze on the other side of the street. For only one instant did he see or hear or think of the stranger. What did he see? A man. Who was it? Could it be? Yes, it was Joe.

Almost with one bound Hugh was on the other side of the street. Unable to utter a sound in his joy, he rapturously embraced a form that he had never expected to see again. Words of congratulation and inquiry passed his lips when he recovered his utterance. As for Joe, a slight peculiarity in his manner of receiving Hugh's demonstrations may be ascribed to his overwhelming feelings.

"Come!" said Hugh, we must go right to Bentley, and set his mind at ease. I have not seen him since the tragedy; and you can tell us both together how you recovered yourself."

"*I would rather you said nothing to Bentley* about this," said Joe.

"But I told him yesterday that we had an engagement with Chopston's ghost—the old fiend!—and he will be uneasy until he hears something of the result."

Joe submitted to being dragged away by

Hugh, but he looked gloomy and uncomfortable.

Bentley was out. Hugh said they would wait, knowing that Bentley was always at home shortly after the present hour. Joe said that he thought he would leave seeing Bentley until the next day. He appeared really to wish to avoid seeing Bentley at present. Hugh said no more, but started to go out again with Joe. As he followed him through the dim hall, he was struck by a shadowy appearance about his friend's head and shoulders. He did not say anything, but turned the circumstance over in his mind. Could it be that Joe was haunted in some strange way? Hugh looked hard again. They had now reached and opened the door, and the apparition was gone.

He went out with Joe, but the latter turned about and said: "Don't come with me, my dear fellow. Stay and tell Bentley all about it. It would be painful to me to hear it all over again." Shirked in this friendly way, Hugh allowed Joe to escape, and went in again.

Shortly after Bentley came in. Hugh hastened to say, "I am dreadfully sorry not to have come earlier and relieved your mind, but I was detained; and if I had not waited, I would have had to tell you dreadful news. I have only just found out that Joe is all right again. We had a horrible time to pay for our foolhardiness, but Joe is all right now."

"Of course Joe is all right," replied Bentley. "I have just met him. What are you running on in this way for?"

"Didn't he say anything about Chopston's ghost?" said Hugh.

"Chopston's ghost?" echoed Bentley.

Hugh was dumbfounded. Bentley had taken his statement lightly the night before, and he had thought lightly of it himself, but now his own undoubted faith made it hard to understand Bentley's skepticism. He told the story of the night's experience, and Bentley at length became impressed with the serious manner of his friend; but having just seen Joe in his usual condition, and without hearing him make any allusion to the affair himself, he could not but be incredulous of so strange a tale. Hugh, however, insisted upon its truth, and finally said that he would go with Bentley to Joe's that evening, and hear what the latter would say.

He called for his friend about eight o'clock. Bentley had left his overcoat in his room, and the two went up to get it. Before they reached the landing, the door-bell rang. It chanced that there was no one else in the house, so Bentley went to see what was wanted.

Suddenly Hugh heard an ejaculation, and saw his friend stagger back from the door and clutch the banister. He bounded down to his assistance, and found him rigid and pale.

"What is it?" he cried.

"A skeleton!" gasped Bentley faintly.

Hugh looked towards the door, and just then he heard the feeble, and voice that had dismissed him the night before.

"I am Joe. I thought Hugh would have told you;" then, after a short pause, "but I will go away if you cannot bear the sight of your old friend in his miserable state."

Poor Joe! The reader has guessed that the Joe whom Hugh and Bentley had seen that day was really only Joe's flesh, inhabited by another man's spirit and yet another man's bones. We parted with Joe's real self tucked up in bed with as much sangfroid as can be associated with a set of naked bones. The poor fellow had lost all power of motion with the coming on of daylight, and, as he supposed, for ever, but as the night closed again his animation returned.

In the meantime his mother had not gone to his room until late in the forenoon, knowing that something had kept him out very late in the night, and being anxious that he should get his rest fully. It had become noised about that a grave had been rifled, and the news reached Joe's home early.

At length, when it seemed out of all reason for Joe to sleep any more, his sister Amelia went to see why he did not come down. Receiving no answers to her calls she opened the door and looked in. There was something in the bed, but it did not look like Joe.

"It is bald," thought Amelia, for she could see only the top of the skull. "Joe is playing some trick."

"Joe," she called, "are you in that bed?"

No reply.

"Amelia, can't you wake him?" came from her mother at the foot of the stairs.

"He is not here, I think," said Amelia, "but there is something queer in the bed; come up, and we will see what it is."

Her mother came to her. They started when they turned down the coverlet, and saw the bones.

"Isn't he horrid to do it?" said Amelia. "What shall we do?"

"We will not touch the thing," said her mother. "Joe must take it out of the bed himself. He really should not have done such a thing."

Neither of the women was terrified at the discovery. They were accustomed to the specimens from which Joe studied, and had heard him say lately that he intended buying a whole skeleton very soon. Here was the skeleton, and the only wonder was that Joe had placed it in his bed, an act entirely foreign to his usual considerate behavior.

Presently another thought presented itself. The robbery—and Joe's absence in the night—his return in the early morning, and then his disappearance without the knowledge of any one. They did not believe in any theory of Joe's guilt, but these circumstances were unpleasant. They decided to say nothing of the matter, but to wait for Joe to explain it; and they hoped that would happen soon.

So Joe remained undisturbed, not recognized nor able to explain to his mother that it was really himself that she saw. He heard all that was said, and was at first much saddened to think that his dilemma should be taken for a joke, but he afterwards reflected that the situation would be terrible if his case were understood.

As the day advanced his family became more and more anxious, and the thought of the robbery recurred to their minds. Could it be that the skeleton in Joe's room was the very one that had been stolen?

When darkness again came and Joe found his animation returning, one of his first thoughts was to go and find his two friends, and ask them to disclose to his family the painful facts of his experience and condition, feeling that to do it himself would produce a shock of double severity. Accordingly he watched his chance, and made his way out of the house unobserved.

His arrival at Bentley's has been described. In time he completed his explanation to his friends, and they sadly took him into the house. Joe sat in a chair, and told Hugh and Bentley mournfully that he desired them to tell the sad story to his family.

At length he said he would go home again, so as to get in before the house should be locked up for the night. He made Bentley promise to come to his home the next day, and disclose to his parents the reason of his apparent disappearance. He left his friends, but did not return directly home. He wandered to the outskirts of the town, and after a while found himself again in Johnson's field, the scene of his terrible calamity.

He sat upon a rock, and cast his gaze upon the spot where he last beheld his flesh, and, strange as it may seem, his thoughts were presently occupied with a psychological treatise on a discovery of his own that he had recently been preparing.

He loved his profession, and his enthusiasm about this particular discovery continued to rise until he resolved to return home immediately, and put down some facts that presented themselves to his mind. He grasped the matter with a power that surprised himself, and he felt able to write a treatise that would astound the world of science. An anatomical mystery that had long been discussed, and was involved in the subject that Joe was treating was perfectly comprehensible to him now. He recollected distinctly an observation that he had made from his own members, when he had been deprived of them—an observation that the difficulties of ordinary dissection had made impossible before—and he almost exulted in his misfortune, so great was his satisfaction at the fruit it was bearing.

"How strong my mind is!" he said to himself, as he rapidly arranged the details of what he meant to write; "perhaps it is because my head is so clear."

He took off his skull, and looked with interest into the crevices of the brain cavity, as if to be sure of his theory. The wind whistled a sort of tune over the foramen magnum, and he amused himself, as he walked along, by exposing the opening in various positions to the breeze. He laughed at the grimness of his own humor, but, as he reached home, he restored the member to its place, and wrapping his feet in two towels, which he took from the clothesline, he silently made his way to his own room, where he was soon deep in his work.—[Concluded in next issue.]

THE BLACK DEATH.

The Saturday Review.

Dr. Creighton looks upon it as a "soil poison," spread mainly by the movement of the ground water, but does not attempt any further elucidation of its actual nature. We agree with him in thinking that this and all similar poisons must have originally arisen by a process of evolution. This, of course, points to the conclusion that they are organized and have a life history of their own; while recent pathological research renders it highly probable that they are bacterial. That the poison once formed can be reproduced in the human body is, we think, unquestionable, and and also that it may be conveyed to distant places in clothing, etc. If its organic nature be admitted, it becomes less difficult to understand the total disappearance of certain zymotic diseases, as some change in invironment, of which we may be totally ignorant, might be sufficient to suppress it.

Of the disastrous effects upon the moral and material condition of the people of England produced by the depopulation caused by fourteen months of the black death, it is difficult for us to form any conception. Dr. Creighton shows that, though between this date and 1666 there was no such extensive epidemic, "for more than three centuries bubo plague was never long absent from one part of Britain or another."

The sweating sickness, of which there were five epidemics between 1485 and 1501, seems to have been even more terribly sudden in its onset and fatal issue than the black death. Many persons were struck down and died in the street, so rapid was the action of the poison. The popular idea, which receives some measure of support from Dr. Creighton, was that the virus of this pestilence was brought over by the Norman soldiery of Henry VIII., the germs having possibly remained in the soil, and were at intervals restored to renewed activity by favoring conditions. Not much light is thrown upon the interesting fact that both this disease and the plague disappeared from this country quite suddenly.

A RED-HEADED HERO.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"I was one of the party of eight once held up by a lone highwayman," said P. J. Martin, a bridge contractor, to the writer. "I was traveling by stage in Montana. The party consisted of two army officers, a speculator, four miners and myself. The stage had been held up pretty frequently, so we all went prepared for trouble. Every man had a brace of six-shooters, and we were just aching to have the road agents tackle us, at least we talked that way. We commented very unfavorably upon men who yielded to the demands of the freebooters without a struggle, and promised them a warm time if they tackled us. One man had little to say. He was the speculator, a red-headed man with a squint. Finally one of the army officers asked him what

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he would do if the robbers attacked us, and he replied that he did not know. As we swung around a sharp bend in the road the stage pulled up with a jerk, the driver threw up his hands, and almost before we knew it we were looking into the barrell of a Winchester. Well, sir, that lone robber marched us out and stood us up in line with our hands above our heads. Then he threw each man a small sack and made him pull it over his head. We all complied but one. The red-headed speculator pulled his gun and shot the bandit so full of holes that he died before he could touch the ground. Then he climbed up, knocked the driver off the box, and drove the stage into the next station with the most crest-fallen lot of braggarts aboard that ever wore a gun and neglected to use it."

IMITATING ENGLISH SNOBS.

General Trumbull in American Journal of Politics.

As it was in his own country in his own time, so it is in the United States to-day; monopoly, aristocracy, plutocracy, caste, and privilege ridicule the name of Richard Cobden. As nursery maids frighten children by fictitious bogies, so in like manner do the nurses of the protective tariff scare American laborers by the ghost of a mythical dragon which they call the Cobden club.

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SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES.

PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES AT COOPER UNION, NEW YORK, SEPT. 3, 1890.

We assert as our fundamental principle the self-evident truth enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

We hold that all men are equally entitled to the use and enjoyment of what God has created and of what gained by the general growth and improvement of the community of which they are a part. Therefore, no one should be permitted to hold natural opportunities without a fair return to all for any special privilege thus accorded to him, and that value which the growth and improvement of the community attach to land should be taken for the use of the community.

We hold that each man is entitled to all that his labor produces. Therefore no tax should be levied on the products of labor.

To carry out these principles we are in favor of raising all public revenues for national, state, county and municipal purposes by a single tax upon land values, irrespective of improvements, and of the abolition of all forms of direct and indirect taxation.

Since in all our states we now levy some tax on the value of land, the single tax can be instituted by the simple and easy way of abolishing, one after another all other taxes now levied, and commensurately increasing the tax on land values, until we draw upon that one source for all expenses of government, the revenue being divided between local governments, state governments and the general government, as the revenue from direct taxes is now divided between the local and state governments; or, a direct assessment being made by the general government upon the states and paid by them from revenues collected in this manner.

The single tax we propose is not a tax on land, and therefore would not fall on the use of land and become a tax on labor.

It is a tax, not on land, but on the value of land. Thus it would not fall on all land, but only on valuable land, and on that not in proportion to the use made of it, but in proportion to its value—the premium which the user of land must pay to the owner, either in purchase money or rent, for permission to use valuable land. It would thus be a tax, not on the use or improvement of land, but on the ownership of land, taking what would otherwise go to the owner as owner, and not as user.

In assessments under the single tax all values created by individual use or improvement would be excluded and the only value taken into consideration would be the value attaching to the bare land by reason of neighborhood, etc., to be determined by impartial periodical assessments. Thus the farmer would have no more taxes to pay than the speculator who held a similar piece of land idle, and the man who on a city lot erected a valuable building would be taxed no more than the man who held a similar lot vacant.

The single tax, in short, would call upon men to contribute to the public revenues, not in proportion to what they produce or accumulate, but in proportion to the value of the natural opportunities they hold. It would compel them to pay just as much for holding and idle as for putting it to its fullest use.

The single tax, therefore, would—

1. Take the weight of taxation off of the agricultural districts where land has little or no value irrespective of improvements, and put it on towns and cities where bare land rises to a value of millions of dollars per acre.

2. Dispense with a multiplicity of taxes and a horde of taxgatherers, simplify government and greatly reduce its cost.

3. Do away with the fraud, corruption and gross inequality inseparable from our present methods of taxation, which allow the rich to escape while they grind the poor. Land cannot be hid or carried away, and its value can be ascertained with greater ease and certainty than any other.

4. Give us with all the world as perfect freedom of trade as now exists between the states of our Union, thus enabling our people to share, through free exchanges, in all the advantages which nature has given to other countries, or which the peculiar skill of other peoples has enabled them to attain. It would destroy the trusts, monopolies and corruptions which are the outgrowths of the tariff. It would do away with the fines and penalities now levied on anyone who improves a farm, erects a house, builds a machine, or in any way adds to the general stock of wealth. It would leave everyone free to apply labor or expend capital in production or exchange without fine or restriction, and would leave to each the full product of his exertion.

5. It would, on the other hand, by taking for public use that value which attaches to land by reason of the growth and improvement of the community, make the holding of land unprofitable to the mere owner, and profitable only to the user. It would thus make it impossible for speculators and monopolists to hold natural opportunities unused or only half used, and would throw open to labor the illimitable field of employment which the earth offers to man. It would thus solve the labor problem, do away with involuntary poverty, raise wages in all occupations to the full earnings of labor, make overproduction impossible until all human wants are satisfied, render labor-saving inventions blessings to all, and cause such an enormous production and such an equitable distribution of wealth as would give to all comfort, leisure and participation in the advantages of an advancing civilization.

With respect to monopolies other than the monopoly of land, we hold that where free competition becomes impossible, as in telegraphs, railroads, water and gas supplies, etc., such business becomes a proper social function, which should be controlled and managed by and for the whole people concerned, through their proper government, local, state or national, as may be.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington single tax league. President, Edwin Gladmon; treas., R. J. Boyd; sec'y, Wm. Geddes, M.D., 1719 G. st., n. w.

IOWA.

BURLINGTON.—Burlington single tax club. First Saturday of each month, 805 North 5th st. Pres., Wilbur, Mosena, 920 Hedge av.; sec. treas., Frank S. Churchill.

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STATE.—Missouri single tax committee. Henry H. Hoffman, chairman. This committee is pushing a State single tax petition. Blanks sent on application. It is also forming syndicate for publication of local single tax papers throughout the United States at little or no expense. Write for circulars to Percy Pepoon, sec., 513 Elm st., St. Louis.

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